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Emma Moffat McLaughlin

A LIFE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

An Interview Conducted by

Helene Maxwell Brewer

and

Willa K. Baum in 1965 and 1968.

Berkeley
1970

Emma Moffat McLaughlin

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PREFACE

Emma Moffat McLaughlin's active life of community service and civic involvement spanned more than a half century of great change in the San Francisco Bay Area. She participated in these changes to the limits of her great vitality and commitment, and she observed, digested, and could comment most analytically upon the actions of her fellow workers. On the framework of Mrs. McLaughlin's career can be hung accounts of the University of California, Mills College, and Stanford University; the changes in social welfare from private charity to governmental agencies; the educational system of San Francisco from a poorly supported competitor of the parochial schools to the overwhelming problems of integration; the political complexion of the city; the shifts in emphasis in foreign affairs studies from the 1920's through to the present day; the concern of women's groups from suffrage to home and family services to environmental preservation.

The name of Emma Moffat McLaughlin came up again and again as the person to interview on all these subjects, yet the Bancroft Library did not have the necessary outside funding to conduct interviews on any of them, the problem of funding interviews in the non-technical fields being always substantial. It was at this point that Mrs. Helene Brewer, professor of American literature, California historian and user of Bancroft Library papers and oral history interviews, and friend and admirer of Mrs. McLaughlin, volunteered her services for preparing questions, interviewing, checking transcript, and anything else she could do if it would make it possible for the Regional Oral History Office to record what she considered an essential interview in the history of San Francisco. Her offer was gratefully accepted and from 1965 until 1970 she put a great deal of time on the project, doing all of the things she had promised. This period of time was due to the absence of funds; the Office could work on the McLaughlin transcript only intermittently. Unfortunately it was too long a period for Mrs. McLaughlin to be able to devote her best work to the later part of the project.

Mrs. McLaughlin died in August, 1968, without having corrected the transcript to her complete satisfaction, and there were portions it was clear she had wanted to enlarge. Her colleagues were therefore asked to add such written and taped information as they could. We wish to express our gratitutde for this informational work to Julia Sargent Breinig, Olga L. Bridgeman, Georgiana Carden, Carolyn Charles, Adelaide Griffith Cochrane, John B. Condliffe, Howard Cook, Jean McLaughlin Doolittle, Garland L. Farmer, Nan B. Frank, Emily Huntington, Mary Ellen Leary, Ann Low-Beer, John R. May, Irene B. Sheldon, Georgiana Stevens, and Katherine A. Towle.

The manuscript being finally completed, funds were needed for the final typing and photocopying. Mrs. Georgiana Stevens volunteered to raise this sum from friends of Mrs. McLaughlin who might wish to remember her in this way. Our thanks for this very material help to Mrs. Stevens,

Mrs. Allen E. Charles, John B. Condliffe, Garland L. Farmer, Mrs. Martha A. Gerbode, Mrs. Mary H. Hutchinson, Mrs. Charles B. Kuhn, Mr. and Mrs. Merritt Ruddock, and Miss Katherine A. Towle.

Willa K. Baum, Director
Regional Oral History Office

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INTRODUCTION

By Caroline Moore Charles

It was apt to be at civic meetings that one first met that great lady, Mrs. Alfred McLaughlin: at the League "for" Women Voters (it is really "of" but she was stubborn about prepositions and small mispronunciations), at the World Affairs Council whose outgrowth from the Institute of Pacific Relations was one of her prime efforts, at Boards and Societies for public and private education, libraries, hospitals, welfare and well babies; at meetings of Planned Parenthood, YWCA, University Women, college and sorority alumnae; in City Hall, at the San Francisco Foundation -- the list is varied and endless, not to mention gatherings of San Francisco Society, weddings, balls, debutante teas -- she went where she was invited because "I assume that if they ask me, they want me."

The number of her friends grew always larger, of all ages and persuasions. Young people adored her. It was back in the early thirties that my husband and I had the good fortune to make her acquaintance. We were a few years out of Stanford; our two small daughters were close in age to her grandchildren who lived near us; I went into the League of Women Voters and my husband joined the Board of the Institute of Pacific Relations. After a few meetings he said, "Mrs. McLaughlin is remarkable. She brings that wonderful common-sense to all discussions, together, of course, with her surprising knowledge."

Those of us who were a generation behind her in civic work were too young and tired to keep up with all of her meetings. Our exhausting home-centered pressures were not lost on Mrs. McLaughlin. Although she had been a widow most of her life, her practical sympathy went out to young families. It might be a gift of a roast from the Moffat Meat Company, flowers from "my sister's garden" at the back of the charming house they shared on Clay Street, a dinner for a celebration that otherwise might have been foregone. "My dear," she would say, "I said to my sister, 'We must do something to relieve that household.'"

We loved to see her approach a meeting, always perfectly groomed, as elegant and unselfconscious as the royal personage some of us thought her. Mediumly tall, sturdy, regally handsome with blue eyes and a fresh complexion, she always wore a charming hat with touches of blue or rose on her upswept white hair. "I love a pretty hat." She would pause at the entrance to take her bearings, then with a shrug, a slight toss of her head, a lift of her brows, she set a steady course for the person or place that she had selected. Her slow progress had a contained dignity, an unseeing awareness that expected no special recognition. But if you were to interrupt her with a greeting, she responded immediately with a warmth meant just for you. "My dear, I'm so glad to see you. Now about that..." and she would have some positive suggestion for a personal or organizational problem you had been discussing. She almost never spoke of herself.

A woman of extraordinary insight, she understood fellow minds. She shared with each person she met, young or old, an embrace of joyous things (she had a lovely chuckle), of simple truths, of courage, faith, and hope. Handsome, honest, crotchety, ruminative, continuously up-to-date in her education, brillantly concise in her opinions, she gave perspective, purpose, and style to the life of community action.

The range and depth of her mind could be forgotten in one's appreciation of her personal warmth. She picked up information everywhere, but she was too much of a scholar to fail to follow a stern regimen of reading, lectures, personal discussions in the field of her greatest interest, foreign affairs. Many a time I heard her called "Madame le Professeur" by impressed visitors, while real professors were ignored.

She was born Emma Moffat in San Francisco in 1880, of pioneer parents. All of her life, in conversation, family ties, and far flung friendships, she demonstrated the strong chain that eternally bound urban California to its ever-present past.

She graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1902, and in 1904, she married Dr. Alfred McLaughlin of San Francisco. By 1908, she was a widow with one daughter, now Mrs. Jefferson Doolittle. Mrs. McLaughlin used to say that "Dr. McLaughlin's babies" and the needs of their frequently desperate families helped to open her eyes to suffering humanity. In those days college women were a select and militant elite, joining the great struggle for "women's rights" and the vote, taking a hand in civic and social reform wherever it was needed. Whatever forces went into the direction of her life, she adorned and justified the times that had produced her, adding her own special dimension of character and personality.

Her home and her hospitality were integral to all that she did and was. No matter where or how she made an interesting friend, he was sure to be invited to her home. She made things happen by putting all kinds of people together. Miss Henrietta Moffat, her sister and gallant housemate, was co-hostess when their tastes in people coincided, otherwise each gave her own parties. Jimmie, the gifted Chinese cook, and two serene Scandinavian housekeepers gave a breathing spell of "gracious living" (as one harassed young mother expressed it) to those lucky enough to be Mrs. McLaughlin's guests.

We young wives recognized that as a widow, Mrs. McLaughlin could put together a guest list and plan a dinner without argument. Our husbands, who might have resented this Pied Piper of joiners, were quickly put at ease in her exquisite yet comfortable household. She always had sufficient males to balance the table, excellent and plentiful cocktails, superb food, and when the ladies left the table, the best cigars were passed with the liquers. Somehow the stimulating dinner conversation got around to Mrs. McLaughlin's deeply held belief that it was the American male's acumen and industry that had made this country great, and that it would be his "enlightened self-interest" that would keep it that way.

In her stately Georgian house, everybody met everybody. Professors from nearby colleges, businessmen and housewives, foreign dignitaries and members of minorities, culture buffs and artists, students, churchmen, politicians,

labor leaders, all met under her beneficent eye. It was her comtemporariness that was so impressive, combined with an ordered beauty of person, attitude, and surroundings. Her long experience in civic affairs and human relationships had become part of her being and was reflected in her comments. One had the feeling that nothing she had seen, felt, or done had been lost to her. She was a genius at life.

She liked to meet each guest at the door. Her hand, with its red varnished nails, rested on his arm, her warm gaze searched his face, her irrestistible chuckle was a running accompaniment to her words of welcome. Her clothes, always of fine fabric, blossomed in color for evening, prints of soft reds or blues that were most becoming. Her taste was unerring and timeless, selecting from current style what was modest and suitable.

She believed in democracy with all her heart. "It works!" she would say, and she was convinced that its effectiveness came through human organization. When she joined a group, it was because she held its purposes in the same kind of respect that she held the integrity of an individual. Preserving an individual's rights did not consist in blindly giving him what he wanted; nor did the support of an organization require the endorsement without debate of new policies and actions. Participation of the members was the key to organizational democracy; love, insight, and availability were the keys to personal relationships. She was able to mitigate as friend and advisor, between the conflicting forces of personal ambition and group welfare because she wanted nothing for herself.

Earlier in her life, before we knew her, she had held high office in voluntary and some governmental institutions at local, state, and national levels. She continued to serve on local boards, on the Library Commission, the San Francisco Foundation, but I am persuaded that the great role she played, the vitally important contribution that she made to civic life, lay in her steady, well-informed attendance at meetings. Such was her discretion that as she grew older she spoke less. Increasingly, her brief comments seemed to come from some inner certitude possessed only by those who are whole, perceptive, and secure. She spoke to that sense of humanity and justice that can be called forth from all but the hardest hearts.

During all of her life, she lived her principles. Week after week, month after month, year after year, she attended her meetings, participating in new decisions, recognizing changing needs. Her presence seemed to fortify and emphasize the humane, the honorable, the creative, the contemporary in organizational purpose. She could devote hours to by-laws, yet could cut through them in a moment. She respected the necessity of proper structure, yet knew that there was no substitute for the right person in the right place. Unlike that community scourge, the sporadic and opinionated attender at meetings, who inevitably misses the time of action and wants it all reopened, Mrs. McLaughlin never missed the action nor failed to understand it. She did not always agree, of course, but she saw the necessities of the times, held to the essentials and stayed with the group. She had no illusions about man's staying power. She knew that the good fight was lost in no single battle, only in a failure of nerve by the individual, a refusal to participate except on his own terms. "So he took his doll-rags and went home!" She might report scornfully. "Too bad!"

To the individual all "bruised and battered", whether by private or public woe, she was always available for personal discussion. No matter what the subject, she was able to add a bit of personal insight or information, the kind known only to those who have worked understandingly in a community for a lifetime. She never glossed over error, but she dispensed courage and sanity, and the determination to try again.

She knew life's tragic potential as well as its joy. She knew that what was done had to be faced. Crises in the lives of her friends, or in the welfare of her city or her country, were as her very own. As the realization hit home that the tragic event was real and irrevocable, she would say only, "Oh, my dear." Then, her head would lift, she would straighten her shoulders and steady her whole body, her eyes would widen for a quick moment then settle on some point far away. With a serious face, she would say, "Now, how do we meet this? How do we go forward?" Many of us remember her at the time of Pearl Harbor, a tower of strength.

She was no organization woman. Friend, grandmother, hostess, citizen, housewife, lifelong student, lover of nature and man, she was uniquely flavorsomely herself.

Her day began with the 6 A.M Farm News on the radio, given at one time by a scholarly young man with a wide-ranging mind whom she made it her business to meet and interest in the World Affairs Council. She gave the daily paper a swift perusal, missing nothing. She did her telephoning at 8 A.M. When she learned that by that time I too was up and dressed, had provided breakfast for husband and children, she encouraged me. "A woman who gets up early can accomplish anything!" Any extra time she had before she left the house or after she came home was spent in reading and dealing with her correspondence, setting aside mail that should be answered by dictation to a periodic secretary.

Each season brought its special pleasures. In the spring, she would gather a friend or two and they would go off in her Cadillac convertible to discover the wild flowers up and down the state. As she grew older, we used to shudder when we saw that dark green car, occasionally with the top down, proceeding down the center of some busy San Francisco street. She was at the wheel, talking and gesticulating to a nervous companion. She finally capitulated to family wishes, and her friends sighed with relief when she was persuaded to have a driver.

In the summer, she put up fruit and made jam and jelly for her friends. Also, she attended summer session every year at either Mills College or University of California for courses in world affairs. Her feeling for her Alma Mater, "THE UNIVERSITY" was intense. Once I said, trying to be funny, "Do you mean California? There is a university down near Palo Alto, you know." I received a swift blue glance, her eyebrows almost disappearing into her hair, and no comment. She admired Stanford, knew and worked with its presidents, professors and graduates, but there was still one University.

Her handwriting was close to being illegible. Now and then she sent me a post card with some presumably vital information, but I had to call her to find out what it said. However, she took much trouble over the hundreds of individually hand-written Christmas cards she sent each year. I came across one the other day. "I salute two people who sustain

my faith in life." To her many friends such a carefully thought-out personal greeting was a gift more precious than rubies.

Her modesty was so innate that it was impossible to offend her by gaucherie or neglect. She never expected the seat of honor and protested if she had the chance. But she was too honest not to be delighted with her Honorary Degrees from Mills College and the University of California.

She did hard things as if they were easy: calling on the sick or bereaved, speaking truthfully to the erring (who wanted her understanding more than anyone's), revising her opinions in the light of new information or accepting occasional factual corrections with lifted eyebrows - "All right, I'm dead wrong. Now what's next? Let's get on.", providing a haven in her attic for the young of her family, out of sorts with the world. Once, walking in the neighborhood, I heard wolf-whistles coming from the Oriole window in the attic of that dignified house. I could see that it was a young nephew paying homage to a pretty girl walking just ahead of me. Nephews, nieces, cousins, grandchildren came to her for surcease. "At least you can talk to Granny." She did not always agree with them, and they got as good as they gave from someone who respected them as persons.

I never heard her speak of religion, yet she radiated love. It was not unsalted. She expected those she loved to meet her own high standards of discipline and courage. "I can't stand weepy women!" Duty was no stern taskmaster, you just did what was right. Once, when I was involved in some organizational impasse she said, "Of course, you have been badly treated. But go out to the beach and talk to the waves the way that Greek - Demosthes (leaving out a syllable) did. He filled his mouth with pebbles." Occasionally she would say, "I mistook my duty," when faced with simultaneous meetings and choosing what proved to be the less important.

She had prejudices, of course, but they were so small a part of her that it surprised you. What she talked about were the people she admired, and her most frequent comment was "A lovely person."

To have known Emma Moffat McLaughlin was one of life's great experiences. She presided over the education of those of us who followed her like a goddess, benign, stern, eternally exacting, eternally forgiving. It is true that her first impression was formidable "but not to anyone with any sense," she would say if she heard of such timidity.

She was a great lady for the ages, but always in and of the present. The changes that took place from her birth in 1880 to her death in 1968 are almost unassimilable. Mrs. McLaughlin was an active participant in current life to her very last year. She moved and changed, going to meetings, entertaining at home, perceiving and catalyzing events and people with sublime common-sense and serene confidence in man's potential.

She had a secret, mysterious to only those who never accept it. She believed in the daily exercise of faith, hope, and love. She believed in man.

We learned so much from her. Her understanding of life in every aspect, large or small, her availability, her forthright advice, her deep respect for education and the life of the mind. She lived on many levels. She never stopped growing and so she never grew old.

"For to him that is joined to all the living, there is hope." Eccl. 9.

Ave, Atque, Vale, Mrs. McLaughlin. We shall not forget you.

Caroline M. Charles
(Mrs. Allen E. Charles)

July 13, 1969
850 Francisco Street
San Francisco, California

INTERVIEW HISTORY

by

Helene Maxwell Brewer

Emma Moffat McLaughlin (Mrs. Alfred McLaughlin, 1880-1968) was interviewed by the Regional Oral History Office in order to document her role and that of her contemporaries in the civic and social progress of San Francisco.

Interviewers

Mrs. Helene Maxwell Brewer, Associate Professor of English, Queens College, City University of New York, and Mrs. Willa K. Baum, director of the Regional Oral History Office. Dr. James R. W. Leiby, Associate Professor of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley, conducted one interview on the State Board of Social Welfare.

Time and Setting of Interviews

Thirteen interview sessions were held between August 1965 and March 1968 as follows:

1965: August 4, 9, 16, 18, 25, 30; in Mrs. McLaughlin's room, the Women's Faculty Club, University of California, Berkeley;

October 19, 26, and December 2, 10, and 20, in a room of the Bancroft Library.

1968: March 4 and 22, Mrs. McLaughlin's home at 3575 Clay Street, San Francisco.

Conduct of the Interviews

The 1965 interviews were rather loosely structured although based on a chronological outline of Mrs. McLaughlin's life and on chronologies of the development of the civic organizations to be discussed. The conversations ranged back and forth over the years in a way which necessitated considerable reorganization of the material before the final transcript was prepared. For the 1968 interviews on the Institute of Pacific Relations, Mrs. McLaughlin had a well-thought-out statement in mind and few questions were asked. She and Mrs. Baum had previously gone over outlines of the major problems and persons involved, and reports of the meetings being discussed were at hand during the two interviews.

Editing

Transcribing and editing were delayed by lack of funds until 1967. Mrs. Baum rearranged the transcript to follow a topical-chronological format, which was returned to Mrs. McLaughlin for her checking in January 1968. The first section she checked was the interview with Professor Leiby, and she checked chapters 1, 2, and 3. She planned to take these to a public stenographer in order to dictate fuller

amplifications, but illness prevented her from doing so. She died in August 1968 without having corrected the rest of the manuscript.

Additional Material from Collegues

It was clear that Mrs. McLaughlin had intended to add much more information, and to check carefully what she had already put down. Therefore, after her death a number of her colleagues were asked to contribute statements about the part of her life that they knew about. The resulting statements are included in the appendix.

In addition, Mrs. Ludwig Frank and Mrs. Edwin R. Sheldon have recorded a tape on the San Francisco Board of Education; Miss Georgiana Carden has recorded three tapes on the Public Dance Hall Committee and has donated papers relating to it; and Mrs. Adelaide Griffith Cochrane has recorded a tape on Miss Alice Griffiths, founder of the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Association. These tapes and papers may be consulted in the Bancroft Library.

Narrative Account of Mrs. McLaughlin and of Progress of the Interview

I first met Mrs. McLaughlin in 1963, when she was in Berkeley on what she called her annual vacation -- auditing courses in world affairs at the University of California Summer Session. Although we shared several old friends in common, I am sure we would not have met on that sunny summer afternoon had not Margaret Murdock* of the Women's Faculty Club virtually forced me to speak to her.

Of course, I had long heard of her, and at the Women's Faculty Club I was frequently told of the San Francisco civic leader who almost every summer registered for classes and assiduously read the assignments. As she later observed to me, if one lumped together the summers she had spent at Mills College and at Berkeley, one would see that she had the longest sustained record of summer schooling of any University of California alumna. Compared with that extended beadroll, my own annual visits were too trifling to mention, for I had been returning to my native state only since 1957. I always stayed at the Women's Faculty Club and went every day to the Bancroft Library, where I read in the collections connected with the Progressive period and Progressive Party in California. Every summer Miss Murdock regularly urged me to introduce myself to Mrs. McLaughlin; she was certain that if Mrs. McLaughlin would talk to me, my research would be notably enriched.

But I never followed this sensible suggestion because (and I am ashamed to admit it) I was intimidated. I remember particularly

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*Margaret Murdock: daughter of Charles Murdock, the San Francisco printer, man of letters, reformer, and staunch Unitarian. Miss Murdock graduated from the University and for many years has been associated with the University in various capacities.

the occasions when Mrs. McLaughlin came for dinner with her old friend Dean Mary B. Davidson (always "Bobby" when Mrs. McLaughlin spoke of her). She walked into the dining room with a rather slow and measured step and while she traversed the room and after she was seated, half the dining room seemed to leave its collective seat and dart over to speak to her. Invariably several of the University's ancient and honorable arrived for their own dinners, and they too seemed to find it necessary to circle her table and stop and chat before they sat down to their own soup. There was always a great deal of laughter and banter and conversation over in that corner. I used to wonder if she didn't leave the table in a state of ravenous hunger because she had to stop and talk with so many old friends.

On the other hand, if one crossed her path when she was by herself, she could seem remote and stern to those she didn't know -- partly, perhaps, because she was abstracted and partly because of her habit of unsmilingly looking over her glasses to see who was coming. This long, hard look over the glasses, with the head down and those clear blue eyes seeming to look through me -- this I found both unsettling and intimidating; and I was greatly relieved to learn that other friends had been similarly affected. How mistaken we all were!

So my avoidance of Mrs. McLaughlin went on for about three years, until one morning in August 1963 when Miss Murdock cornered me: Mrs. McLaughlin, she reported, would be staying at the Women's Faculty Club; she (Miss Murdock) had previously asked me to go and see Mrs. McLaughlin, and I had not done so; now she (Miss Murdock) had told Mrs. McLaughlin that I wanted to ask her some questions; Mrs. McLaughlin doubted that she had much helpful information, but I must go and introduce myself. In a hangdog way I promised to do so, but I had an inkling that I was not going to make a point of pounding on Mrs. McLaughlin's door.

About a week later I came back to the Women's Faculty Club for a very late lunch -- one of those scattered, last minute forays where one dashed into the empty dining room and, while the student help cleared the other tables, gobbled as fast as possible a plateful of assorted leftovers. As I was standing at the serving table contemplating the tepid possibilities a second latecomer walked in, picked up a plate, and silently stood behind me; and I, hastily looking over my shoulder, nearly dropped my butter plate as I saw that I was hedged in by strawberry jello salad on one side and Mrs. McLaughlin on the other and that in that constricted space I could not cravenly scuttle away. Undoubtedly I stuttered some inconsequential inanity because Mrs. McLaughlin looked at me not through her glasses but over them, at the same time saying, "Yesss?" and giving an impression of such remarkable sterness that I squeaked, "Margaret Murdock said that I should ask you . . . ." This trailing-away sentence I never did complete because Mrs. McLaughlin smiled, looked at me through her glasses (oh, the dramatic change!) and with charming directness replied, "So it's you! Why of course! I've been expecting you. I don't know how much I can help because at that time I didn't know many of those people. But let's talk."

So we sat down and as we ate we talked, and after a while the manager asked us if we'd mind moving because the dining room had been closed. We moved out to the porch where the sunshine was pouring down, and there we sat looking down on the "Old Berkeley" garden -- the fuchsias, the acanthus, the roses in profusion, the green lawn, the hedge, and the scent of bay leaves, somehow mixed up in all of it -- while Mrs. McLaughlin reminisced about her growing up in San Francisco and Nevada in the '80s and '90s, and about William Kent and Hiram Johnson and briefly about Chester Rowell, each of us deeply absorbed. Suddenly we heard the chimes striking four and she exclaimed that she was forty minutes late for an engagement. When we said a rushed goodbye she remarked that it was unlikely that she would be back the next day, but we would surely meet later in the week.

The next morning I was in the breakfastroom foggily contemplating the San Francisco Chronicle with one eye and a cup of coffee with the other, when in walked Mrs. McLaughlin. She had eaten breakfast (I learned that she always woke up at six o'clock and listened to a summary world events on her radio) but she wanted to tell me that after she had left me on the previous afternoon she had remembered something she wanted to tell me and that she would come back to the Club for lunch that noon. By the next morning I had permanently changed my breakfast hour from the last to the first shift. Thus began a habit that flourished over the next few summers -- that is, of meeting for meals when she was free. In 1965 we moved our Thursday lunches to the patio of the Golden Bear so that Mrs. McLaughlin could listen to the student speakers in Sproul Plaza. She usually disagreed but she felt that she should hear them.

At first glance Mrs. McLaughlin seemed tall; actually, she was slightly shorter than I (five feet six inches). When I first met her she was, in her early 80s, slightly stooped and when she walked with her hands clasped behind her she had rather a contemplative appearance. I have already mentioned her steady walk -- steady in more ways than one so that she walked from one end of the campus almost to the other if the classes she audited were so placed. She had clear blue eyes that could turn hard blue if she happened to talk about something that displeased her, and I remember thinking how on the days when she was feeling well, the pinkness of her skin was unusual for anyone of her years -- that and her carefully dressed white hair and her rose-colored fingernails. Particularly in those first years of our friendship she seemed to emanate something like indestructable energy -- a misleading impression as I found out; for although she only occasionally spoke of her health she was not entirely well and in the next years she visibly grew frailer. But even when she was feeling her most miserable, an adamant quality asserted itself, conveying the impression that if she could help it, she would not give in. On two of these occasions I remember going down to Oakland to wait with her until the San Francisco bus came. My own feeling was that she shouldn't be alone on the bus, even from Oakland to the city; but she would have none of this and refused to let me go any farther as she climbed on that city-bound bus.

Perhaps in part this impression of extraordinary energy that I have just mentioned resulted from her direct and emphatic manner of speaking, particularly about something or someone who aroused her indignation. Her outspoken indignation was one of her many beguiling qualities, although I shouldn't have thought so had I been the target of that articulate displeasure: "And I said to him, 'You can't do that! That's not honest!'"

For me Mrs. McLaughlin stood distinguished by the forcefulness of her convictions, by her honesty, by her kindness, and by her unvarnished detestation of double-talk and disingenuousness. It is only fair to observe that her forcefulness was not at all times universally admired.

The obituary in the San Francisco Chronicle mentioned her serene beauty. Serene she could be; benevolent she could be, and wonderfully kind and ordered and succinct; but to mention these qualities alone and to forget her wonderful ability for indignation is to oversimplify her, and thereby lose much of her complex magnetism and effectiveness. Not infrequently she used that explosive quality to create an unexpectedly comic effect, for she told a story unusually well -- at best with a sense of dramatic incident and a keen sense of timing. Her friends will remember her account of her last meeting with Garret McEnerney; or of the numerous tribulations when she presided over the luncheon for Queen Elizabeth of the Belgians. Years later when she told me about it she concluded: "I came home, went into the kitchen, sat down, took off my shoes and said, 'I hate women.'"

Another quality that I admired was her ability to make decisions and to stick by them. This point of view she tersely summed up in a letter she sent me in 1965, when I was nominated as a Fulbright Visiting Lecturer to Japan but did not know if I could go. Mrs. McLaughlin wrote: "Now you must make a plan so that you can leave your problems.

"I will say to you just what I said to a friend in a similarly difficult choice -- 'Be convinced that your decision is right and be prepared to face any consequences.'" From her descriptions of some of her experiences when she was active in San Francisco civic life, I am certain that when she felt she had to, she followed her own precept.

By the time we met she was no longer driving that green Cadillac for which she was evidently famous and feared. In fact, a number of persons have indicated to me that it was a great day for the general traffic safety of San Francisco, and for the equinimity of her friends when she relinquished the wheel of that fearsome automobile and relied on the Yellow Cab Company. From all reports she was a terrible driver. According to one reliable passenger she often ignored red lights and the restrictions of traffic laws, seeming not to care whether she was on the right or the left-hand side of the road or when U-turns might be made. A friend who survived one of these excursions still gasps and rolls her eyes when she describes a ride from 2200 College Avenue to Oakland, with Mrs. McLaughlin forcing the car forward regardless of

red traffic signals, impeding automobiles, and hastily scattering pedestrians; this same passenger is not at all amused when I remark, "But Mrs. McLaughlin was merely following her own injunction: 'Be convinced that your decision is right and be prepared to face any consequences.'"

No description would be complete without a mention of her enjoyment of people. I am not certain of all the components that comprised that quality, but I do know that to her friends she conveyed a quick responsiveness that made her friends, old and new, feel that they were individually and genuinely important to her. Frances Cahn, who went to Miss Burke's School with Jean McLaughlin and who lived a few doors from 3575 Clay Street, remembers how when she was growing up, Mrs. McLaughlin would talk to her about her youthful problems, always giving those conversations the serious attention she gave to her own contemporaries.

One way she made her friends, old and new, feel that they were each important to her was illustrated in her Christmas cards. I have no idea of how many she sent out, but my guess is that they numbered several hundred and many of them contained personal messages. Sometimes she wrote that at Christmas she liked to review the year, "counting my blessings"; then she explained why she was sending that particular card. Obviously, each of these messages was specially composed and I am certain that the young and the old who received these greetings and saw themselves catalogued as "blessings" must have felt distinguished and proud.

When Mrs. McLaughlin stayed at the Women's Faculty Club in the summers she almost always wore a blue and white silk print dress or a dark silk of some kind; a white sweater; and, when she went out, a navy blue coat. This near-uniform was topped by a close-fitting, rimless black straw hat trimmed with blue velvet bows, the blue harmonizing with her eyes. One morning I unexpectedly met her as she was coming downstairs -- this time not carrying her notebook and not wearing her habitual classroom garb, wearing a toque composed of small, soft-reddish velvet and silk rosebuds and a fashionable looking silk print dress that matched the silk and velvet hat. "Oh," I blurted, "don't you look beautiful!" "No, I don't," she replied, "but I'm going to a luncheon in the city and I can't wear my college clothes to <u>that</u>." I still smile when I think of Mrs. McLaughlin and her durable college clothes, contrasted with Mrs. McLaughlin in the soft reds and light blues I afterwards saw when she was home in San Francisco.

Every summer -- I think it was in early August -- she left world affairs and returned to Clay Street for several days so that she could put up raspberry jam. This was an annual rite and Mrs. McLaughlin was openly and unabashedly proud of it, sometimes bringing a sample of the handiwork back to Berkeley, where it quickly disappeared.

One of her greatest prides was the honorary doctorate she received from the University of California. She adored the University. She adored its achievements and its greatness. When she talked about it she conveyed her sense that she was talking about a living, breathing thing of grandeur; that during her lifetime she had seen it grow from a small college into something almost universal -- a place whose magnitude transcended the limits of the state of California and reached out to enlighten and improve the world. I used to think that for her the University represented not only old friends and her inner life and growth, but that it also stood for the unpredictably numerous ways in which mankind could be improved. Several times when she told me about a University occasion -- Charter Day, for example, when she marched in the procession -- she added, "I didn't really feel like making the trip over here, but I put on my regimentals and marched and was glad I did."

H.B.: "But if you didn't feel like it, why did you go?"

Mrs. McLaughlin: (Opening her eyes wide) "Why? Why, it was my responsibility. They gave me this degree, you know."

In the early time of our acquaintance our conversations were largely limited to the Progressive period and the development of the Progressive Party in California. This was because I was writing about the turbulent and somewhat abrasive Francis J. Heney, particularly about his political fortunes and misfortunes after 1910. Although as she told me she had been neither a Progressive nor politically active at this time, she had known many of the San Francisco group close to Hiram Johnson, particularly in the years of his governorship; and she recalled events with gusto, for she could tell a story vividly and with a marked sense of dramatic insight. What struck me forcefully that first afternoon was her clear distinction between hearsay and what she herself knew at firsthand. When she was uncertain of a point, she told me; and she had an impressively clear sense of exactly what her part was in an undertaking, as against the parts played by her associates -- an ability sometimes lacking when one recollects the long-ago past.

As our friendship grew she realized that she could trust me not to repeat details she told me in confidence; after that she often gave me what might be called "background briefings." These were really the highlights of her recollections, the social backgrounds, the educations, the families (particularly the wives), the personal eccentricities, the limitations, and often the hopes and frustrations of some of the men we discussed. Often I would bring back from the Bancroft Library a list of names of minor, hardworking men I could only briefly and unsatisfactorily identify. And although she would insist that she really knew very little about the Progressives of the time, she would start to talk and out would come an anecdote or a connecting link that turned these men from names on a list into living persons.

It was, however, Chester Rowell who cemented our friendship. Several of us were reading in the Rowell Papers and Mrs. McLaughlin, who had immense regard for him, was delighted that his massive collection was at the Bancroft Library and available for research. I cannot estimate the number of hours she and I talked about him, his work, and his contributions to the life of his time. Of all the California Progressives, Rowell was the man for whom she felt the greatest sympathy and admiration. Her esteem was not primarily because of his career as a Progressive (an aspect of his life with which she was not particularly familiar) but because of their common interest in two vital subjects -- the University of California and the Institute of Pacific Relations.

Mrs. McLaughlin often spoke of what she termed Rowell's "quality of mind." "Of all the leading California Progressives," she said to me, "I think that Mr. Rowell was the most truly intellectual -- the one true intellectual." She admired his breadth of knowledge, his "international mindedness," and his devotion to the University. I cannot count the times she said, "Even during his lifetime few people had any idea of the extent to which Mr. Rowell watched over, worked for, and fought for the University. Its tradition of intellectual greatness owes a great deal to his concept of what he as a Regent should do. No one has any idea of the selfless way in which Mr. Rowell carried out his duties as Regent. His chief aim was to insure the greatness of the University." Also, since she had known him best when they were both members of the Institute of Pacific Relations, she liked to recall those years and his particular contributions.

In addition she told me about her youthful life in California and Nevada; about going to Miss West's School; about her father's meat-packing business; about how she and her sister crossed the Sierra on horseback; she spoke eloquently of Tahoe, then blue, uncrowded, and unspoiled, and this often led her to speak with deep feeling and sensitivity of some of the beautiful, out-of-the-way spots in the mountains -- spots that no longer exist; and these reminiscences of course led her to the imperative need for conservation. In logical sequence she talked about the development of her interest in community service in San Francisco, about the growth of the state, and about the unexpected problems that this growth had created. "Our beautiful state wasn't intended to be home for millions of people. The land here simply can't support them."

She had a vivid sense of the continuity of California history. As she frequently reminded me, she had seen profound and basic changes; she had seen the state change from an agricultural to a largely industrial society, and the contrast between the past and present ways of life was a subject she often discussed. For me and I am sure for many others, she personified the continuity of California history.

Since we were both staying at the Women's Faculty Club, it was only natural that she should talk at length about her old and much loved friend, Lucy Ward Stebbins.* The Women's Faculty Club was in large part created and sustained by Dean Stebbins, and Mrs. McLaughlin zealously wanted to see the continuation (survival is a better word) of her friend's dream. However, she feared it was a lost cause; increasingly she pondered the place and function of a club for women faculty in a university that seemed less and less to believe in the need for women faculty. At the same time she was proud of the club's uniqueness. She enthusiastically asserted its value, and she often remarked that she hoped and prayed that her forebodings would prove wrong and that Miss Stebbin's vision would be revitalized. She was proud of her membership, but she felt that it was a beleaguered institution that somehow had managed to survive in spite of great obstacles. And if this were the case, then a realistic estimate of the future was essential. "I do believe in women," she said to me, "but regardless of this belief, in no case should sentimentality take the place of a clearsighted evaluation of the entire question."

In 1964 Dr. Anne Low-Beer was staying at the Club, and the consequence was that our conversational horizons were markedly widened. Mrs. Low-Beer had for years been active in San Francisco affairs, including a term as president of the League of Women Voters (1932-34). Although much younger than Mrs. McLaughlin, the two had known a number of the same people and in some cases they were in emphatic and articulate disagreement. I have often sat open-mouthed while they argued their differences, neither one convincing the other but always leaving me with the feelings, "How kind of them to do this for me! It's the best possible seminar!" Also, Dr. Chiyoko Tokunaga, the geneticist, was then in residence and Mrs. McLaughlin got much pleasure in reminiscing with her about Japan as she had seen it before World War II.

During that same summer, Mrs. McLaughlin characteristcally set about to enlarge as best she could my acquaintance among the rapidly dwindling group of men and women who had been active in San Francisco city affairs before 1914. This could not have been an easy task for her, I am sure. Typically, she never once gave me a hint of the time she spent on this enterprise, but I am certain that considerable maneuvering was at times required.

For example, she very much wanted me to meet one of Hiram Johnson's ancient and honorable advisers, a San Franciscan who had been a close adviser of the governor. In addition to being ancient and honorable, this gentleman was a busy and unapproachable lawyer. I am under the impression that he not only informed Mrs. McLaughlin that he did not wish to cooperate with her generous impulse, but

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*Lucy Ward Stebbins: Dean of Women at the University of California, 1913-1936.

that he volunteered that he had no patience with such damned foolishness. Characteristically, Mrs. McLaughlin was unimpressed by his attitude. "He has the reputation of being the rudest man in San Francisco," she said to me, "but I think I can persuade him." She did, too.

On another occasion I mentioned a reformer I wanted to meet. She had excellent reasons for thinking that he was too mentally shaky for reliable discussion, but, having decided to give him a trial run without me, she invited him to dinner at 3575 Clay Street. At eight o'clock the next morning I was called to the telephone: "My dear, I'm so sorry that he won't be any help to you; he'll be no help at all. He arrived late for dinner and most of the evening thought I was Hiram Johnson's secretary and that Hiram Johnson wanted him to write a book!"

In 1965 and 1966 she methodically undertook to discover what manner of summer visitor stayed at the Women's Faculty Club. She said to me, "I've known the old-timers at the Club for years, but the summer school group are a mystery to me, so I'll count on you to introduce me. I want to find out about their interests and how they feel about this Club." We were a miscellaneous lot, we summer birds of passage: one or two of us had come out to read at the Bancroft; two or three were teaching; three or four were feverishly writing theses; perhaps a dozen had come to Berkeley for refresher courses; several were emeriti; and one had evidently come to Berkeley in order to practice the piano. No matter what we were doing, we were either rooted in the past or unable to see very far beyond our own special projects -- that is, all of us except Mrs. McLaughlin who, in her mid-eighties, encompassed us all and talked to us all about our work, about the past, the present, and sometimes even the future. I was often reminded of a remark Dean Stebbins made to a friend of mine: "Some people are tasters for knowledge, and some people are thirsters for knowledge. Emma is a thirster."

As I saw her in action, she was most interested and best informed in foreign affairs, particularly in Asia (she especially admired Professor Robert A. Scalapino and took his courses whenever she could); politics, national, state and local; history, especially California history; the condition of the public schools and public libraries; and public welfare. In 1964 Mrs. McLaughlin went on her first trip to Europe and after that I thought I detected a new dimension and a new interest, art. One day while she was enlarging her acquaintance among the summer visitors, I determined that as of the next morning, for twenty-four hours I would keep a brief memorandum, unbeknownst to her, of the various subjects Mrs. McLaughlin encountered and discussed at breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

By the time I clattered down to breakfast on that designated day she was already there, reading the Chronicle and -- reinforced by the six a.m. radio -- commenting on the news as she turned the pages. A

faculty member, a native Californian at least sixteen years her junior, questioned her recollection of some detail about the shipping of walnuts, whereupon Mrs. McLaughlin produced such a series of facts and citations from both her own experience and that of persons of her immediate acquaintance that the incipient argument was immediately disposed of, thoroughly quashed. She and I then talked a little about California politics and she reminisced about Senator Phelan and Montalvo.

At lunch she and I talked about developments in the civil rights movement; this led into the subject of integration, which led us into a discussion about the Chinese in San Francisco. This led us briefly into Mainland China. At this point someone in educational testing sat down, and I soon was listening to an animated discussion about that. The tester departed, and Mrs. McLaughlin compared the campus planting in her undergraduate days with the landscaping of 1964 (she obviously had been thinking of this as she had walked to her classes that morning), and that led to a description of the problems Thomas Church had encountered and solved when he landscaped "my sister's small garden" at 3575 Clay Street.

At dinner she carried on a lengthy discussion with two nuns from New Jersey on the techniques of teaching science in parochial schools. Also, Dr. Catherine Callaghan (now at Ohio State) had just come in from the field, where she was collecting material for her Bodega-Miwok dictionary. Mrs. McLaughlin was always interested in her progress and in the cooperativeness of her informants, so they talked about Indians. In addition, Dr. Callaghan's favorite diversion was a matter of fascination, for she studied judo, and Mrs. McLaughlin was as much mystified by these techniques as she was interested in methods of collecting Indian words; her puzzlement about the former arose from the circumstance that occasionally Dr. Callaghan vigorously practised sweeps and falls in a not-too-soundproof bedroom directly over Mrs. McLaughlin's bemused head.

Dr. Callaghan having left, Mrs. McLaughlin and I talked briefly about Anita Whitney and -- I can't remember in what order -- the late President Kennedy, Constance Baker Motley, Martin Luther King, and Malcolm X.*

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*Although she did not make these remarks on that particular day, I quote them because they are characteristic and I have heard them a number of times:

"A pooling of ignorance is not an educational experience." (This epigram was made by an old friend.)

"I have always had to reason from what I know."

"Anyone my age has learned to live on different levels of emotions and spirit; so we go through life."

I regret that I made notes like this for only one day. Other subjects on other days would have included the Southern Pacific in California politics, the growth of Los Angeles, James Rolph, Friend W. Richardson, FDR, Aurelia Henry Rinehart, the Institute of Public Relations, the Public Dance Hall Committee, the San Francisco Foundation, the war in Viet Nam -- and these are only a very few of the subjects we discussed.

In keeping with these broad interests, Mrs. McLaughlin belonged to a luncheon group they called the "Yack Yacks." The function is self-explanatory. The members included Mrs. Adolph Deutsch, Mrs. Robert Sproul, Mrs. Mary Hutchinson, Mrs. R. H. Braden, but I can't remember the full list. They met -- once a month, I think -- for lunch, usually seriatim at a member's house. I have been told that Mrs. McLaughlin's luncheons were the culinary points.

Also, I wish I could work in something about the unforgettables, the amazing Georgianna Carden -- "George," as Mrs. McLaughlin called her -- and Emily Huntington.

From September 1966 until July 1968 I was in Japan. From September 1966 until April 22, 1968 (that is the date of the last letter she sent me), one of my most regular correspondents was Mrs. McLaughlin. Knowing that I wanted to keep up with American developments, she sent me newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and letters about recent events in California. How I relied on her assessments of political developments, of the state's political leaders, of the student protests at Berkeley, and her attitude toward the rising black protests! As soon as I saw the long, thickly filled envelopes, I knew that shortly I would be reading numerous clippings that she had torn from the San Francisco morning newspaper, and that in all probability she had written across one, "Be sure to read all of these." So informative were Mrs. McLaughlin's bundles of clippings and her analyses of what was going on three thousand miles from Tokyo that visiting professors, wondering what was happening at home, often asked me, "Have you mail from San Francisco? What does your friend say about Berkeley?"

Her analyses of events at Berkeley were particularly interesting to us, and I regret that some of her letters were "borrowed" and never returned. And her opinions got around, as when someone just arrived from Taiwan quoted Mrs. McLaughlin to me with impressive authenticity. (He was quoting the substance of a letter she had written to me.)

Although from the earliest weeks of our acquaintance Mrs. McLaughlin and I had talked a great deal about the changing emphasis of the black movement in the United States, I felt that she was understandably not close to it in the way that she was to the student protest movement. She, of course, recognized the profound social seriousness of the situation and the need for a change in the black man's condition, but probably many blacks would have said that she oversimplified.

As she saw it, one of the fundamental causes for the trouble was that "the avenues of communication of the affluent society are filled with urging everyone to have everything of luxury now and pay later. The younger Negro[es] [replied?] by rioting since they do not have opportunity for credit cards." Another time she stated her belief that most blacks wanted "peace and quiet [and] a chance for education and jobs." She regarded the black militants as hotheads, and she saw them as a grave social problem and was concerned.

The student protests on the other hand, struck an immediately personal note. I have already remarked that when she was on campus in 1965 and 1966, we regularly went to the Golden Bear for Thursday lunch so that she could hear the student speakers. Sometimes she was horrified, but she sat through to the end. She considered them "these people who are determined to challenge the 'establishment'", and saw them as threats to the order and discipline of the trained intellect, destructive to the existence of the University she had lived with, grown with, officiated at, known intimately, and loved.

On April 22, 1968, she sent me a note describing both the aftermath of Dr. King's assassination and the changes in the political situation in the United States. Almost casually she added, "I have a slight illness, but though slight it has incapacitated me, since it affected my entire anatomy."

Previously she had written that we both must be sure to plan our respective summers so that we could have time in which to talk over the past two years; this remark I clung to and I made my plans accordingly. But it was not to be. As the ship on which I was homeward bound came into San Pedro Harbor, a tugboat brought out telegrams and special delivery letters for the passengers, and in one of them I learned that Mrs. McLaughlin had died.

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Any attempt for me to evaluate this extraordinary woman would be presumptuous. A warmer and more sympathetic person I have rarely met. The devotion and admiration she inspired in so many people, young and old, is in the end the best witness to her quality.

The best summary was made by Dr. Mary E. Layman, Mrs. McLaughlin's friend and long-time associate in civic causes. "Mrs. McLaughlin," said Dr. Layman, "accomplished what no other woman in San Francisco in her time could have done. How did she do it? Well, of course you have to start with a set of ideals. She had them. She had the means and the time required to work for these goals. She had an immensely practical sense of what could be done, how far one could go. And she was absolutely honest and altogether fearless. She was strong in her likes and dislikes but had good judgment. And she did such grand things!"

From the scope of our conversations as I have indicated them here -- and I have given a far from complete account -- it will be clear that to anyone with an interest in oral history -- that Mrs. McLaughlin was a natural candidate. Late in 1963 I mentioned the oral history project to her; she already knew it well because several friends including Mrs. H. R. Braden and Dean Davidson had been interviewed. At this time, however, Mrs. McLaughlin was uninterested in the idea of recording her own recollections. The next summer I spoke to Willa Baum of the Regional Oral History Office about the possibility of interviews, but Mrs. Baum regretfully had to say that funds were lacking. Apparently the matter was dropped. Then in 1965 three persons, independent of each other, spoke of Mrs. McLaughlin as a potential mine of information and recommended that she be interviewed.*

By this time Mrs. McLaughlin herself had become more receptive to the idea of taping, although as she said to me, she supposed that she would grow tense and not talk so easily when she saw "that thing" (the tape recorder) spinning around and around. In June 1965 Mrs. Baum wrote a persuasive letter in which she explained the nature, history, purposes, and function of the Regional Oral History Office; in addition she suggested that "some of the topics [that might be discussed could include] your family, childhood in San Francisco, the meat raising and packing business, trips through the Sierra and the Sierra Club, early days at UC, and the social and political movements you have been involved in." Mrs. Baum was to do the interviewing with assistance from me as far as subject matter and formulating some of the questions were concerned. At first Mrs. McLaughlin intended to limit her account to the events that took place before 1912, but once the taping got underway her interest grew and I think that she felt that her recollections would suffer by this arbitrary limitation -- and indeed both they and Mrs. McLaughlin would have suffered, for when she talked about the past she was often reminded of something similar or dissimilar in the contemporary world.

The first interview took place in the early afternoon of August 4, 1965, in Mrs. McLaughlin's corner room in the Women's Faculty Club. As is always the case in these circumstances, "that thing" was carefully placed behind a chair so that its whirling could not be observed. In all, thirteen sessions comprise this transcript. Willa Baum conducted all the interviews except that of December 20, 1965, when Professor James Leiby, Associate Professor of Social Welfare, joined Mrs. Baum in the interviewing, particularly on the

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*These three persons were: (a) Elizabeth Dixon, UCLA, head of the Oral History Office, March, 1965; (b) Mrs. Jane Dow, UCLA, April, 1965 (Mrs. Dow was doing research on the U.C. Extension Division); (c) Mary Ellen Leary, political writer.

State Board of Social Welfare. Mrs. Baum's records do not show any interviews in 1966, but that summer Mrs. McLaughlin talked to me two times and at length about the Institute of Pacific Relations and about Edward Carter. It was clear that she had begun to think about a special interview but it did not take place until March 4 and March 22, 1968, when Mrs. Baum went to Mrs. McLaughlin's home and recorded those recollections. Mrs. McLaughlin was clearly not well and these were the last tapes she made.

The work of getting the tape transcribed and edited was tremendous, but by January 1968 the material was returned to Mrs. McLaughlin for checking. The first section to which she gave her attention was the interview with Professor Leiby. In addition she checked chapters 1, 2, and 3. These are probably all that she corrected. She planned to take this material to the stenographer in order to dictate corrections that would improve the narrative, but illness prevented.

Considering the interruptions and Mrs. McLaughlin's rapidly declining health in 1967, it is remarkable that she accomplished so much. My own wish is that the interviews could have begun in 1963 or 1964. In those earlier years her recollections were sometimes sharper than they were in 1965; in the 1965 tapings I several times noticed that she seemed to overlook details that she had previously described to me with effect; later, when I questioned her, she answered, "Oh, I'd forgotten that!" To put it another way, when we got around to the taping, she was at times not quite so articulate as before.

On several occasions, for example as in her reminiscences of Senator Phelan and Rudolph Spreckels, she disclaimed having much knowledge, whereas previously (i.e. in our conversations) she had reminisced fully and with what to me seemed to be clear details.

I have already mentioned her prediction that she would probably not talk so easily when she was in the room with the tape recorder, and I was at times amused to see that occasionally this is what happened. As was to be expected, she sometimes became cautious in her estimates of her contemporaries (a standard reaction), modifying the tone of her judgments although not the judgments themselves.

But these qualifications are in no sense a denigration. Mrs. McLaughlin's recollections comprise an absorbing chronicle of an extraordinary woman who participated in the history of California. She was her own best illustration of the dedicated believer in disinterested community service who by virtue of that very quality achieves so much. Anne Low-Beer said, "She was a woman who engaged in all aspects of community service with complete disinterestedness. She had no axes to grind and nothing personal to gain except the satisfaction of what she achieved. She was completely honest and straightforward and she never deviated from the standard that she set for herself -- that as she saw it, she should consistently act in the best interests of the community."

30 January 1970
Department of English
Queen's College,
City College of New York
Flushing, New York

Helene Maxwell Brewer
Associate Professor of English

Who's Who 1958-1959

McLAUGHLIN, Emma Moffat (Mrs. Alfred McLaughlin), (mäk-lôk'lin), civic worker; b. San Francisco, Calif., Sept. 21, 1880; d. Henry and Adrianna Green (Swett) Moffat; A.B., U. Cal., 1902, L.H.D., 1960; M.A. (hon.) Mills Coll., 1942; m. Dr. Alfred McLaughlin, October 29, 1904; 1 daughter, Jean (Mrs. Jefferson J. Doolittle). Chmn. Baby Hygiene Com., Am. Assn. Univ. Women, 1916-18; dir. Pub. Edn. Soc., 1917-32; mem. Calif. State Com. of Children's Year, 1917-22, San Francisco chmn., 1918; v.p. Progress Co., 1919; pres. San Francisco Center, Calif. League Women Voters, 1920-21, mem. bd. of dirs., 1921-26; dir. Community Chest, 1921-26; chmn. Dept. of Internat. Cooperation to Prevent War, Calif. League Women Voters, 1923-29; mem. bd. Dept. of Social Welfare of State of Calif., Dec. 1930-Feb. 1932; member Library Commission of San Francisco; mem. Art Comm. of City of San Francisco, 1932-33; as mem. attended Inst. of Pacific Relations meetings, Honolulu, 1927, Kyoto, 1929, Banff, 1933; sec. San Francisco Bay Region Com. of the Inst. since 1928; vice chmn. San Francisco Bay Region Group of Inst. of Pacific Relations, 1935; vice chmn. Motion Picture Research Council, California Chapter, 1935; mem. presidential and gubernatorial campaign coms.; No. Calif. chmn. govt. and foreign policy, League of Women Voters; dir. League for Planned Parenthood. Mem. bd. dirs. Internat. House U. of California, 1952-58; second vice pres. Alumni Assn. U. of California, 1914-15. Trustee of the World Affairs Council of Northern Calif., since 1917; mem. Distbn. Com., San Francisco Foundation, since 1948. Dir. H. Moffat Co. (San Francisco). Dir. Children's Hospital, San Francisco, 1917-31. Community Chest; mem. women's com. Golden Gate Internat. Expn. Mem. Kappa Gamma. Unitarian. Clubs: Century, Women's Athletic, Women's City, Women's Faculty (Berkeley). Home: 3575 Clay St. Address: care of H. Moffat Co., 3d and Arthur Sts., San Francisco.

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CHAPTER I

FOREBEARS AND FAMILY LIFE

Mother: Adrianna Swett

The Mayflower and the Gold Rush

McLaughlin: My mother was born in Brunswick, Maine, the daughter of Elizabeth Carvill and Ebenezer Swett. He was born in 1800 and lived to be 86, remaining in Brunswick. My grandmother was the niece of his first wife and twenty years younger than he was. He had had six children before and my grandmother had ten children. Mother was one of sixteen children, an average family for those days. A little over half of them lived, I think. Two of my grandfather's eldest sons came to California in either '48 or '49 and came home after a year. They marched down the street of Brunswick with their gold bricks.

Baum: With their gold bricks? So they were successful.

McLaughlin: In a short time they returned to California and both of them died, as many miners without families did, probably from food poisoning. No one ever knew where they put their cache.

Baum: Do you know how they came to California?

McLaughlin: By the Isthmus of Panama. That would be natural for seafaring people to come by sea.

McLaughlin: I was told my grandfather evidently had business reverses after the Civil War and my grandmother came to California with two other of her sons and two daughers in their teens. I don't know what date, but they preceded my mother. She and her sister stayed with an aunt in Bath, Maine, until the end of the Civil War, 1864, and crossed the Isthmus then.

Baum: Then your grandfather never came.

McLaughlin: He never came.

It's an interesting fact to me as you read the history of the family, which has come out in a genealogy--we descended from the Higgins' who were on the Mayflower and they stayed in Massachusetts for a short while and then went up to Maine and then they stayed in Maine until after the Civil War. They just stayed until the Gold Rush and the Civil War. My grandmother was born in Lewiston, Maine. In Lewiston were these same people who had either been on the Mayflower or had come shortly thereafter on some of the other boats.

We always knew some of our family had been in the Revolutionary War, but we just discovered about two years ago that they came on the Mayflower. My sister made the classic remark, "Isn't it too bad that it didn't happen to somebody who cared." (laughter)

A cousin of ours searched out this genealogy and it has been accepted by the Daughters of the Mayflower.

Baum: If anyone wanted to look up a copy of this genealogy, where could they find one?

McLaughlin: I have one. My cousin in Portland, Maine, has one, Mabel Steadman.

To California in 1864 Via the Isthmus of Panama

McLaughlin: Anyhow, my mother came to California in 1864. She was fourteen and her sister was sixteen. They had the usual difficulties of crossing the Isthmus. They would hire a horse to ride a certain distance and then the horse was trained to run away and they would have to walk the rest of the way.

Baum: So your mother came to California at the age of 14. Her mother was already out here, with her two older daughters.

McLaughlin: My mother was married at 22. She was an old lady to get married, they married much younger then. She was married in 1871, ten years after the Battle of Bull Run.

Baum: Do you know how your parents met?

McLaughlin: No, I haven't the slightest idea.

I have never known a finer, more beautiful companionship, and I never expect to. She was my father's partner. He was as dependent on her companionship as anybody could possibly be. A wonderful thing to see, and a wonderful heritage too.

Baum: What was your mother's name?

McLaughlin: Adrianna Swett.

Baum: Was she any relation to John Swett of educational fame in San Francisco?

McLaughlin: There was a remote cousinship. We knew John Swett's daughter in the Sierra Club later, but there was never any relationship except that John Swett did tell my mother that she should go on and be a teacher, anyone with a brain like that should do something with it. But it was said there was a remote cousinship. We don't know anything about my grandfather's family, except that he had brains and he really was fine looking.

Brewer: What had your mother been doing before she was married?

McLaughlin: She was helping her mother. For a while they had a boarding house. When my mother left home, my grandmother made the great mistake of giving up her home and going to live with her children. She was only 48, but that's the way it was done. A terrible mistake.

Uncle Oron Carvill, Sierra Stagecoach Maker

McLaughlin: My grandmother had a brother out here. He was probably the one she came to. He had had this shop in Lewiston and made buggies and conveyances. He came out here and for a while he had the stagecoaches that were used for travel; they were made in his shop in Lewiston and shipped out here. Finally he opened up a shop here and made the stagecoaches that traveled in the Sierras. We used to find his signature in Old Strawberry. His name was Oron Carvill and his partner was Hinkley. He had a house ready for my grandmother when she got here. Her furniture was lost coming around the Horn, yet he had a house ready for her when she got here, so evidently he was not only a good brother but prosperous enough to help her.

We saw the signatures of Hinkley and Carvill in old hotel registers as we traveled around in the Sierras. The family at Old Strawberry remembered them very well. That was the road to Virginia City.

Baum: And where was the Carvill buggy works?

McLaughlin: In San Francisco. Uncle Oron lived until 1900 or more. He made buggies after the stagecoaches went out in the Sierras.

Baum: Then your grandmother Carvill is the one you can trace the genealogy on?

McLaughlin: Yes, that goes back through the Carvills to the Higgins family. The only thing I'm really proud of, my grandmother's grandfather fought in the Revolutionary War and he lived through Valley Forge. His wife lived to be 93 years old. Very few women lived so long then.

My husband's grandfather was a loyal Southerner. He was a judge during the Civil War and rather than take the oath to the United States, he went off to Mexico. His sons went through the lines and fought for the South. My husband's grandfather came to California in 1850, but he wouldn't stay here during the Civil War. He didn't indulge in any treason, he just left and went to Mexico and stayed there until the war was over. There were a great many Southerners in California; most of them ended up as lawyers. My eldest sister married the son of one of the Southern lawyers.

Father: Henry Moffat, Wholesale Butcher

To California in 1857

McLaughlin: My father was born in Rhode Island in 1840. He was the only child in a family of Irish immigrants, the only one born in America. In 1857 he came over the Isthmus. He came to relatives here.

Baum: What education had he had?

McLaughlin: As far as I know, my father probably went to school for a few years in Rhode Island. My mother had had a grammar school education. But my father's great relaxation was books. He was just a natural-born reader.

My grandmother said when she was a girl all the family had gone through grammar school and

McLaughlin: one girl went on to the academy to be a teacher, and one son went on to be a minister. That was traditional. I don't know what her father did, but he left some kind of an estate because there is a copy of a will in the genealogy I mentioned; she got $750 as her share of the estate.

But life was very simple. They lived on what they produced in their own gardens, which they stored in their deep cellars. But even a simple family like this had people who worked for them. I can remember my grandmother using a phrase, "Yes, they lived with us and sat below the salt."

Baum: What had your father's father been?

McLaughlin: A horse trader. These were all humble people, you realize that.

Baum: Yes. What had your mother's father been?

McLaughlin: Well, during the Civil War he had been on the Food Commission of Maine and resigned. He had always had a contact with livestock and what we now call meat packing. What he was was a wholesale butcher, I think. There was a Swett's Farm near his establishment in Brunswick, but he lost everything during the Civil War. He stayed and lived with a son of his who was comfortably prosperous.

Baum: So both sides of your family had been in livestock.

McLaughlin: Yes. My father came to California in 1857. He had a couple of married sisters here. He went to work for his brother-in-law, a butcher too. He worked for him until 1864. My father was a violent Democrat and he hoisted the flag over his brother-in-law's shack, for McClelland--his brother-in-law was a Republican.

Baum: Anyhow, your father began as a butcher with his brother-in-law.

McLaughlin: Yes. He was discharged for his politics, and had to go into business for himself. He was a wholesale butcher in San Francisco. All he needed to start in those days was a shed.

Father
Henry Moffat

Mother
Adrianna Swett Moffat

Emma

The Big Range

Baum: Where did he get his livestock?

McLaughlin: It was near in. He went up and down the coast valleys. One of the big producers was the Murphy family of San Jose; they owned everything from San Jose down to Santa Margarita. There were big cattle ranches around Santa Barbara too.

Baum: Was your father's job to go up and down buying livestock?

McLaughlin: He was the outside man. Well, whatever there was to do, he did. Naturally, by the time I remember anything he had an established staff of people to help him.

Brewer: How far down the coast did he travel?

McLaughlin: In the early days, all the way down to Salinas, Monterey, Santa Barbara. Later, up and down to Bakersfield. And later he traded up through the Shasta country. Wherever there was livestock, he went.

Then later there were great ranches established in the San Joaquin Valley.

Baum: Did he ever go east, to Nevada?

McLaughlin: Oh yes. I never remember the time when he didn't have trips to Nevada.

Baum: Did you ever accompany him on his trips?

McLaughlin: No. Occasionally my mother would go. We visited in Monterey, but that was the only place we children went. We visited right in the town there.

Baum: Did your father ever go into raising his own livestock?

McLaughlin: No, my brother was the one who started that. He didn't start that until about 1900, he didn't have any ranches until after that.

McLaughlin: But my father touched an early period, just remote from the Mexican period. The '60's, '70's, were the times of Henry Miller. There were other ranches now less well-known, but almost as powerful as Mr. Miller. There was Cox and Clark centered in Sacramento and with ranches near Sacramento, up in the northern Sierras or southern Cascades. They still have a range east of Paso Robles. California was almost all cattle range then.

Baum: Was wholesale butchering a very competitive business?

McLaughlin: There have always been great ups and downs in the livestock business because you are depending on the seasons, and this is a semi-arid region. So often you have several dry years. The first thing I remember in the way of a disaster was the hard winter of 1889-90. Especially in Nevada, it was a tremendously wet, snowy winter. The people were dependent on the resources of the country. They did not cut or keep feed for the winter. And they had enormous losses. Some of the people had left California because of the droughts and had gone across the mountains. Then those people got caught in the winter of '89. A lot of them had left an area east of the Sacramento River. I know of people who left Ione and went over to Nevada.

Baum: Your father didn't lose the livestock because he hadn't bought it yet.

McLaughlin: No, but it was a great loss to the industry, and a great change of the people in charge.

Baum: I see. The people he had dealt with would go out of business. Was there anywhere else he could get meat?

McLaughlin: Oh yes. My father was still getting a great deal of livestock from Monterey in the late '90's. He went every year to a ranch south of Carson.

But my father's life was spent in the period just beyond the Mexican period. The Americans still depended on the natural yield of the land, as the Mexicans had, instead of the modern irrigated fields.

Baum: I've heard your father was a very hard worker.

McLaughlin: Tremendously hard worker. So was my brother. Anyone in the cattle business is a hard worker. My father worked hard, but he never worked other people as hard as my brother did. My brother really worked twenty-four hours a day. He could drop off to sleep on the instant. Later he could depend more on telephone connections.

Bandits

I told you my father just touched the Mexican period. For instance, he was riding horseback over the Gaviota Pass, from Santa Ynez over to the coast north of Santa Barbara. Suddenly in front of him were two Mexicans with guns. This was all over in a second. And in back of him was a man on horseback that he had met in Santa Barbara. My father said this man seemed to have a few horses and to be perfectly independent. This man was Jack Powers. My father asked him what he was doing and Jack said, "Oh, I have my men out." He rode alongside of my father. [part of story unclear due to change of tape]

About ten days later Jack Powers was dancing, he was very much liked socially in Santa Barbara, and he saw a United States marshall or a sheriff coming in at the door and Powers went out the window, galloped away to San Francisco, and got away to South America. He was one of the great bandits. The story came out later that he did have men out on the desert east of the San Joaquin and it was a nasty situation.

Jack Powers just felt that they wouldn't get anything from my father. At any rate, Jack Powers rescued him.

Baum: Oh I see, Jack Powers rescued your father from Jack Powers's men.

McLaughlin: This shows that this era was still unsettled. We have a story in the family: My father was driving from Klamath Hot Springs east. He had bought some cattle in Modoc. He was driving a horse and buggy. There was a man sitting on the roadside and he picked him up. They drove all through the day together. My father was one of these people that didn't talk too much. And the man talked too much. He thought my father didn't know the country and began saying what he was doing and how he happened to be there. And none of this made any sense. Then there were other things that aroused my father's suspicion. He asked the man to hold the reins. My father made a motion and the man apparently was frightened. At any rate, my father went to the Wells Fargo agents at Dunsmuir afterwards. And the man said to him, "You had Black Bart with you all day."

Baum: (Laughter) Goodness!

McLaughlin: The man left Papa before the cattle reached them. The cattle were coming west, and my father was driving east. What I'm saying is the chaotic times come through the immigration in the late '70's.

The Long Drive

Baum: How did your father get the cattle? Were they driven there on foot?

McLaughlin: Some places they'd have to drive them in and some places they'd come by train. Cattle were driven long distances in those days. They'd drive them out of the northeast counties. There was a regular path from Modoc down to the Feather River region, into Marysville and places like that.

Baum: What kind of men were the employees who handled these? Were they Americans?

McLaughlin: Up there they were all Americans. Down around Monterey they were Mexicans. There were a good many fine Basques. These were not sheepmen. But the Mexicans were down around Monterey and, I suppose, Los Angeles. My father never went down there much. Down on the San Joaquin they were cowboys.

Baum: Were they mostly itinerants? Or were they family men?

McLaughlin: They were not necessarily family men. But they were not necessarily itinerant.

Baum: They were single men who were cowboys, sort of.

McLaughlin: That's right.

Baum: Were these your father's employees or were they employees of the ranch from which he bought the cattle?

McLaughlin: He always had some men traveling. And sometimes he would own the cattle that were being driven in.

Baum: So it was either way. They might be your father's men driving them in or they might be the rancher's men.

McLaughlin: It depended upon the area from which they came.

Moffat Children: Elizabeth, 1872; William, 1874; Henrietta, 1878; Emma, 1880

Baum: Your mother and father lived in San Francisco. Was your father well-to-do by the time he married or did they have quite a struggle?

McLaughlin: My father was not wealthy by the time he was married. But he owned his house and the furniture. This was what was done in those days.

Baum: I know. You didn't marry before you were able to support a family.

McLaughlin: No. I mean you did not buy anything on the installment plan.

Baum: And how many children were there in the family? And in what order?

McLaughlin: There were three girls; my eldest sister Elizabeth who was eight years older than I was, then my brother William H. Moffat, then my sister Henrietta, who never married, and then me. My brother's birthday was February 14, 1874. My eldest sister was two years older than he was. The sister who died last year [Henrietta] was two years older than I.

Baum: So your oldest sister was born in 1872. What was her name?

McLaughlin: Elizabeth. Then came my brother, William. And then my sister Henrietta. She was born in 1878.

Baum: And you were the youngest. You were born in 1880.

McLaughlin: Yes.

Baum: And your brother became a rancher.

McLaughlin: And a meat packer. He always ran the plant. He ran the whole thing.

Baum: How about your sister Elizabeth?

McLaughlin: She was married to Arthur M. Sharp. His family was southern. They came here before the Civil War. And his father was one of the lawyers who defended the Mexicans. So my brother-in-law spent a great deal of time about his father's estate which, of course, had suffered terribly. He met his responsibilities because his father left more problems than money. But there were things that had to be handled. They lived in San Francisco. Then he was a partner with a man who owned hotels and lodging houses, small hotels.

Baum: You said Henrietta didn't marry.

McLaughlin: No.

Baum: Did she do anything in your father's business? She wasn't a working woman.

McLaughlin: No. We were all on the board of directors.

Baum: Was that an active role?

McLaughlin: Any final decisions--well, we were in intimate association with the business all the time. After my father's death, my brother did all the directing. But in the final decisions, he always consulted with us.

Baum: Did that mean that you had to be aware of the problems of meat packing?

McLaughlin: Well, I was interested. I didn't have to be aware. But I was terribly interested in what was going on.

Baum: It sounds like a terribly interesting kind of business.

McLaughlin: My father's life was an interesting life. And so was my brother's. My father lived in an interesting period, at the end of the Mexican period, but with enough of it still so that it was a life of real adventure. And most of California, at that time, was in ranching. It did not involve very much plowing of the soil. All of that was changed by 1900.

Brother: William Moffat, Rancher and Meat Packer

Baum: How did your brother get into livestock raising?

McLaughlin: My brother started out buying cattle when he was 18. He was five years older than I was. At first he was around Bakersfield mainly. By 1904

McLaughlin: or 1905 he was spending most of his time in Nevada and by 1912 he had begun to buy land there.

Baum: Even after he had seen the hard winter of '89?

McLaughlin: Well, they changed the methods entirely after that and realized they could no longer depend on nature. That was the greatness of Henry Miller. He anticipated when none of the other men did, and he anticipated water was the thing.

Baum: When did your brother become a cattle rancher? Not until after 1900, was it?

McLaughlin: No. But by 1910 he began having ranches of his own. This is just a short story. Conditions were changing and due to his knowledge and his [my brother's] long association with pigs and the livestock business, he and his company, the Union Land, had Antelope Valley land and livestock. They had the Spanish Ranch north of Tuscarora, the Bradley Ranch at Deeth, one of the old Stanford properties at Ione, and some others.

Baum: Your father had those or your brother?

McLaughlin: My brother. That company collapsed in 1920 or '21.

Baum: This was all held by the Union Land?

McLaughlin: Of which he was the president and the majority stockholder.

Baum: I see. And that collapsed in the 1920s. Was that part of the general agricultural collapse?

McLaughlin: The livestock business always feels the post-war conditions before any other agricultural agency. But in his case, the case of the Union Land, you can simply tell the story this way: As he told it, we did have an option on all the unborn lambs in 1917-1918. They made $800,000. If they had paid off our indebtedness, we would now have the ranches. We just bought another ranch. Union Land also had a big wool company. And all of this collapsed at once in 1921. They were too heavily involved when there was a dramatic drop in values after the First World War.

McLaughlin: Our family company was not involved in it. In 1921 we bought cows with calves, almost a year old, for $20. We bought a whole herd.

Baum: You mean, the cows plus calf cost $20.

McLaughlin: Yes. The prices went utterly to pieces. And the price of wool went utterly to pieces, too.

Baum: Yes, of course, that was when the war-time demand ended.

McLaughlin: Oh, yes. And the livestock industry was hit first. I talked with the man who did the research for the Old Colony [Bank] in Boston, once, after this, and he told me that history shows that after the Civil War livestock dropped more quickly than anything else. There was a tremendous drop. And by 1927 it had revived before the big crash. These are facts here in California. I'm absolutely accurate about those.

Baum: Was your brother able to recoup after that?

McLaughlin: After that he had absolutely nothing. He even signed his house in Reno away. But we had our family company. And he ran our company until he was free from the obligations of the other company. And then he used our company to get on his feet again.

Baum: I see. And when did he manage to do that?

McLaughlin: In 1928 he was released from his obligations in the Union Land. And by 1934 he had built up a company of his own.

Baum: More ranches?

McLaughlin: He built up land and some capital so that he was on his feet. And in 1934 the two companies were put together.

Baum: What was his company called?

McLaughlin: It was called the H. Levy Company. Douglas Bates owned some property that he had bought. And it had a growing company with it. Those were awfully hard times.

Baum: And you said that he lived in Reno, was that because most of his operations were there?

McLaughlin: He liked Nevada. He kept building up a ranch over in eastern Nevada, north of Elko.

Baum: That's a whole other story, I think, the Nevada situation.

McLaughlin: That's another story. His life was really in Nevada. His home was in Reno and he always voted in Nevada. Somebody told me the other day that in his estate California was trying to prove that he lived part of the time here. It's that sort of thing that just infuriates you. You see the people that have suitcases and go to Nevada for a couple of months. But the only thing he cared about was Nevada.

Baum: He grew up in San Francisco just like you, didn't he?

McLaughlin: Oh yes. But his whole life was over there after he was 18.

Baum: Oh really. He did all of his work over there? He didn't stay here with the company?

McLaughlin: Oh yes, he ran it. But he was running his ranches over there. After '28 he had some ranches here in California. We had one near Stockton and one at Knight's Ferry. And then we had a good deal of rented land. But that can be done by telephoning and visiting. His home was in Nevada. And he did all his trading over there.

Baum: A good part of the cattle business moved over there.

McLaughlin: Yes. He did his buying over there. There were still spring cattle that we got here. And in the sheep business you traded over here and in the San Joaquin.

Baum: I noticed that your father was listed in the San Francisco Directory as "wholesale butcher, cattle." Then there were other men listed for hogs.

McLaughlin: My father never handled anything but cattle. And my brother didn't take on sheep until, I think, 1911. He never took any interest in them. He had a man that he trusted absolutely to handle the sheep business.

Baum: Was this unusual, that one company specialized in one animal?

McLaughlin: No, no. Most of them were diversified but my father and my brother didn't go along with this. My father died in 1912 and I think my brother started in the sheep business in 1922.

Baum: Was there any reason your father gave for not diversifying?

McLaughlin: My father was very skillful with the cattle.

Baum: I suppose you'd get pretty good at judging which cattle to buy.

McLaughlin: Oh, my father was a very good cattle man, very good. And my brother just was never interested in sheep. And he had a man that he could trust absolutely. He consulted with him.

Baum: How about hogs? They never handled hogs?

McLaughlin: Yes, we did have hogs. I remember occasionally the Chinese cook would want some. We had hogs but not any great amount of them. My brother's skill was in cattle. And my father's skill was in cattle.

Baum: I'm wondering about your home life when your father had to go out to do buying. Was he home much? Or was he away a lot of the time?

McLaughlin: He was always back. It couldn't have been any great length of time. My brother would be away because he would be watching-- They bought cattle in the fall in Nevada. Then he would have them placed in different places for feeding. And he was watching them. But my father was never gone any great length of time--a few days here and there.

Baum: So your brother took over the distant operations as soon as he was old enough.

McLaughlin: As the methdd of handling cattle changed, as they were put into rented land in Nevada or feeding lots, why he was there watching them. He took charge of them--buying and selling them.

Baum: And you say he began this as young as 18?

McLaughlin: He began down on the San Joaquin at 18. He went to Nevada in his early 20's.

Baum: Did he go to college?

McLaughlin: No.

Baum: He went right into the business.

McLaughlin: Yes. He went right into the business. My father said, "The money's made or lost in buying. No one's going to lose money on you but me." And he never lost. In his early 20's he was a competent person.

Baum: I guess that's the quickest way to learn.

McLaughlin: From the time he was a young boy, he was off on a ranch every summer. He began down in Monterey. Then there was a big ranch at Merced, the Chowchilla Ranch, one of the great ranches. And for a short time he was back and forth at Bakersfield. But by that time, traveling with my father, and having been touched with it from the time he was a little boy, in his early 20's he was a competent person.

Baum: Your father didn't include you girls in this training.

McLaughlin: (Laughter) No.

Baum: That was not the thing for girls. I was thinking your older sister Elizabeth might have accompanied your father.

McLaughlin: No. It's a different thing if you're living on a ranch. We were in the city. What we know about the business--we could always go into the

McLaughlin: office and find out anything we wanted. From the time of my father's death every so often, every three or four months or so, my brother would sit down and explain things to us--exactly what was happening. And every year we went over the books and we knew just exactly what was occurring. And we were always prepared for whether there was going to be a loss or a gain months ahead of time. And we kept intelligently in touch. But we never interfered with what he was doing because he knew what he was doing--and we didn't.

Baum: It sounds like your father had seen to it that your brother was adequately trained.

McLaughlin: He saw to it that he was absolutely trained. My father had him with him from the time he was a little bit of a boy.

Baum: You say he went to public school?

McLaughlin: Yes.

Baum: And he finished high school.

McLaughlin: No, he didn't finish high school. He went to school until he was 16 or 18 and then he went off. He never was a bit interested but he ended up leaving school with a gold medal.

Baum: (Laughter) It sounds like he had his life pretty well laid out for him at an early age. He had the training he needed.

McLaughlin: He knew what he wanted to do.

Home Life

House work and Hired Help

Baum: What was your home life like?

McLaughlin: You know this is what one of the children asked the other day. "Why did you do this? Why did you do that?" And I said, "Remember, there were none of these things you have for your entertainment." I think we had a perfectly happy time without them, myself.

I suppose we always lived in great comfort, but we always were thrifty. With a mother from Maine you're bound to be thrifty. (Laughter)

Baum: Did you have a hired girl?

McLaughlin: Everybody did.

Baum: Was she Chinese?

McLaughlin: My mother and the Chinese never got along. She was afraid of having anybody there too extravagent. The Chinese never wanted the woman of the house around. My mother always wanted to see what was going on. But a hired girl was not a sign of wealth. This is the distinction between what people had in those days and now. The present young person has more money and less servants. I don't know of anybody that didn't have at least one girl, mostly a cook. And then you had somebody who did the washing and would help with the heavy cleaning.

Baum: I don't know how you could have handled a family then with no appliances.

McLaughlin: This is what I mean. These were not considered luxuries. They were just necessities of life. The average middle-class family always had help. Some households at that time, of course, had a great deal of help. We always had a maid, who did the cooking. And, I imagine, she took care of the downstairs. There was someone who came in a certain number of times a month to do the

McLaughlin: heavy cleaning. And you had somebody for one or two days for laundry. But all of this cost very little. I think this woman got $25 a month.

Baum: And she lived in?

McLaughlin: Yes, and she lived in. This was pre-earthquake wages. Everything was much more reasonable in those days. Eggs were 25¢ a dozen. And butter accordingly. This I remember because it went up after the earthquake. Wages went up after the earthquake, too.

Baum: What kind of a woman would be your cook? Would she have a family or would she be a single woman?

McLaughlin: The typical maid was a single woman, generally, I suppose she started out as a girl, but approaching middle age, a responsible human being. My recollection was that she was a fair cook. At that period most of them were Irish. And I can't remember whether they had any days off or not. I think this all came later.

Baum: I suppose she got off to go to church.

McLaughlin: Oh yes. Sunday morning breakfasts were hideous because she had to go to mass. (Laughter) So much so that my sister and I wouldn't hire a Roman Catholic later. We wanted peaceful Sunday mornings.

Baum: Did you have a man about the house to do the heavier work? Or to do gardening?

McLaughlin: We didn't have a garden. We had a man who worked for a good many people besides ourselves who lived, because there was room, in one of these old fashioned houses in the basement. We lived in a row of houses, and he kept the stairs and the sidewalks clean. It happened to be one of those situations where the wind carried everything right in the front of these houses. And so his job was to keep the fronts of the houses clean. I don't know whether he did any inside cleaning or not.

Baum: Was your father any good at handiwork or did that all have to be done by someone else? I don't think men in those days did do-it-yourself things like they do now.

McLaughlin: He didn't. He worked terribly hard. When he was home, my mother was trying to make life pleasant and easy for him. He was away a great deal. And traveling in those days was hard. Anywhere you went you traveled for hours in a horse and buggy.

Baum: What were your mother's main household responsibilities, and yours when you got old enough?

McLaughlin: We had to take care of our own rooms. And then Saturday was cleaning day. And we had to help on that, especially I hated to dust. (Laughter)

Baum: I'll bet there was a lot of dust in those houses, too.

McLaughlin: Oh my, yes. You just can't imagine. I always laughed about it because somehow I got out of it. On Saturday after I came to college they telephoned the sorority house and I answered the telephone. And my sister said, "What are you doing?" And I said, "I'm down here dusting." When I arrived home the next Friday afternoon there was a dust cloth put in my hand. (Laughter)

Baum: And how about sewing? How was sewing managed?

McLaughlin: Most of our clothes were made at home. And there was always some seamstress, especially where there were three girls. And my mother was awfully good at sewing.

Baum: Would this woman come in for a week or so at a time?

McLaughlin: Yes, she would come in and out as she made these things. We always had this one person to come in to sew. There were no stores like Magnin's. The White House had a custom-made department itself. But there were very few ready-made clothes in those days. It seems incomprehensible, doesn't it?

Baum: It certainly does.

McLaughlin: You realize that the clothing industry--wholesale clothing industry--grew up in New York after 1900. I can't remember when you actually stopped having things made.

Baum: When you came to college and you wore skirts and blouses, were those purchased or were they made for you?

McLaughlin: The first dress that I had when I went to college was entirely new and was a tailor-made suit. I don't know where it was made.

Baum: I suppose hats too were made by the milliner.

McLaughlin: My mother was awfully good at it. She could make any hat. You were dressed up in my day if you had a Knox hat that went every place. (Laughter) It was a nice flat straw hat and it cost ten dollars. And there was some kind of shoes that went with it, but I can't remember.

Baum: Was that the straw hat that had a little ribbon on it?

McLaughlin: Yes. It was a flat straw hat that generally had a black band around it. I don't think it had any ribbons going down the back. Then, of course, there were fancy hats. When you went to a tea, they were very dressy--there were no cocktail parties in those days--you went out to teas or to play cards--and you wore dressy clothes and dressy hats.

Baum: How about cooking? Did your mother do some of that? Or did you have responsibilities in that? Or did the cook do it all?

McLaughlin: The cook did it with assistance, I think, from my mother. I can't remember cooking in those days myself. But you were in the position so that you knew what was being done. The household had jobs in it. But I can't remember ever having cooked.

Baum: I was wondering how a young lady would learn how to manage a household.

McLaughlin: You were around the house a good deal, so you really did learn.

Baum: Your mother had grown up in a family in which she had probably done a lot of that work herself as a young woman, didn't she?

McLaughlin: Back in Maine--I don't know how much of a cook she'd been there. Cooking was never anything she really enjoyed. But she supervised very closely because she was a very thrifty person.

Baum: That was typical of New England, wasn't it?

McLaughlin: Oh yes. You helped in certain ways, for instance, I can remember jam-making. All of us would get in and help peel the apricots. And you also put up canned fruit a great deal. The fruit you wanted in the winter was canned at home.

Baum: You bought this in quantity out on a farm or in a market?

McLaughlin: Market.

Baum: Were there stores near your house?

McLaughlin: I don't remember where the fruits and vegetables came from. For a long time there were Chinese who, at first, went with just their baskets on their shoulders and then after that they came with a horse and buggy and served households. There must have been a market in the neighborhood. I suppose they were on Third Street. And when we were on Franklin Street, I don't remember where the shops were. But there undoubtedly were shops. But there was delivery.

Baum: How did you get your message down? Did you have a telephone?

McLaughlin: We didn't have a telephone when we were down on Bryant Street. But in our house on Franklin Street, there was always a telephone. But a good housekeeper went and looked over what was in the market. And people weren't so busy in those days.

Baum: Do you think it was your mother who shopped or was it the cook?

McLaughlin: Oh no, my mother. When money was spent, she supervised it.

Baum: I don't suppose you go back as far as the days when they locked up the sugar.

McLaughlin: There were some people we knew that did it. Of all the ridiculous performances I've ever heard of. As I say, we knew one New England family that did this. Oh, it was a new maid and she'd forgotten the lemon for the tea. Therefore, somebody got out the keys and went and unlocked whatever it was and got the lemon out and then locked it again. (Laughter) That never occurred in our household.

Social Life

Baum: During your two years at home after college, did you have many social responsibilities?

McLaughlin: We didn't do an awful lot of entertaining. We had a pleasant time with other girls. We always had some friends over. There were some old friends from Monterey that might come to stay with us for a certain length of time. When they came to town we were back and forth. The mother in that case always got lost in San Francisco, so one of us would go down to the hotel and lead her to where she was going. (Laughter) She was the sweetest dearest thing you ever saw. But this was no responsibility. It wasn't every day or anything. But there were a certain number of families that my father had business with. And when they came to San Francisco, we saw them and did something with them.

Baum: Did you have dinner parties for friends very much?

McLaughlin: As we grew older, yes. Social life became much more lively as we were in our early twenties.

Baum: How about family? Did you have many cousins or relatives around?

McLaughlin: My mother had some nephews and sisters that were close. And one of the nephews never worked for anybody but my father. I mean, we were a close family.

Baum: Could you tell me what a typical day in the life of a young lady was like?

McLaughlin: We all got up and had breakfast together. Of course you didn't go out a great deal at night. There wasn't this lying in bed in the daytime. When you were finished, you were supposed to keep your room up. There was generally some sewing or some house obligation that you took care of. Then it's more than likely that you were out in the afternoon with some girls. We used to do a great deal of walking. We walked from Franklin and Geary out to the beach and back.

Baum: That must have kept you in good health.

McLaughlin: We had a very simple social life. I did a good deal of reading and I always read with my father in the evening. He had a room with a fireplace and in those days you didn't think it was good for the eyes to have gas lights--electric lights hadn't started yet, so you used gas--so he had a nice oil lamp in the middle of the table. And he smoked and read. He enjoyed having one of us there with him.

Baum: It sounds like such a simple life.

McLaughlin: It was just as simple as it could be. These things are all relative.

Baum: And were there libraries nearby?

McLaughlin: The library that was a great comfort to us, my father and me, was down on Van Ness Avenue. It just combined with the Mechanics. My father was tremendously interested in the Civil War and everything about America. So I kept him in books. There was a great deal of reading.

Baum: I come from the generation where if you were not in school you were out working. So that's why I'm trying to get the picture of how and what a young woman did then.

McLaughlin: You met your obligations around the house. With four of us there was always something that had to be done. We learned to knit. We tried to learn to tat. My mother was wonderful at all these things. "Just leave it and let me do it. It's easier to do it myself," she'd say about the tatting. (Laughter) After I left college we were helping to make pretty things for my sister's baby--all hand-made. The sister next to me did beautiful feather stitching. We made all the clothes for my niece, dressing dolls for her, we did a little sewing for ourselves.

Baum: Were you expected to take on any charitable activities?

McLaughlin: There were some with regard to the church. That was mainly for the fairs. You worked all year long for this fair at which they sold things that nobody wanted. One reason I don't believe in fairs now is that there was too much of it in those days.

And my elder sister did the decoration in the church so we'd go over there with her on Saturday afternoons and help her or go out and collect the flowers for her, run errands for the family.

Baum: Nothing in the way of social welfare, though, going out and delivering parcels to poor people or visiting the sick or any of those things.

McLaughlin: No, none.

Baum: And how were you supposed to meet the young men? I suppose you were to meet and marry, eventually.

McLaughlin: As you go through life now, so you went through life then. There were certain friends that you made and those friends gathered in a certain number of boys. And then out of that a group formed. And there was none of this habit of a

McLaughlin: girl being tied up to a boy--never, never, never. The whole pinning proposition started after I left college. I think it's remarkable that as many of those marriages turn out as well as they do. It's terrible, terrible. Also, we belonged to a dancing class.

Baum: I think a lot of churches now, through various organizations, really are set up to see that the right young ladies meet the right young men.

McLaughlin: The obvious fact that there is a mating period, I think, was less discussed in those days than it is now. I can remember with great surprise when a young woman who lived in one of our houses said, "Now that your eldest sister is married, I suppose your mother will begin working on getting a husband for your sister." Well, I was struck dumb. That just struck me as being one of the queerest things I'd ever heard of. Of course when I was in college, several of the people that I was in college with made arrangements here. But it wasn't overwhelmingly so. It isn't like the present time. I think it's particularly noticeable at Stanford. You really have to engage the chapel at Stanford months ahead of time. A girl gets a graduate certificate in one hand and a marriage certificate in the other.

Did I tell you that I have a friend who graduated in 1898. She went through college with this group among which was her husband. And she insisted that she never decided at all when she was in college. He just carried her through college. In any case, her present attitude is that "It is the obligation of the state to surround people with the proper surroundings during the mating period or she doesn't think it ought to be called a university." (Laughter) It may have been so in the higher social elite--this obvious looking around for a man. But I must confess it was much more casual.

Baum: I think in your day maybe--in the middle-class and the upper middle-class--people married later.

McLaughlin: Oh yes. Men did not marry until they could take care of a wife. The average age, I would say, was about eight years that the man had been out making money, or at least establishing himself. It would have been perfectly preposterous for a girl to be subsidized. And she was not given a dowry. In the modern days if people have any comfort at all the girl always starts off with some kind of a trust fund or she's been given enough so that she has a certain amount of comfort. Or she is helping to meet the household obligation. I know of no one of my age and those much younger who do not share whatever they have with their children to start the girl or the boy off with an income, if they have the money to do it.

Baum: Now are you saying that this was not customary when you were young?

McLaughlin: Oh no.

Baum: A man had to be able to earn his own living before he could ask a girl to marry him. He needed money to buy his house and furnish it.

McLaughlin: My father and mother owned their house and I should say that they spent a good deal on the furniture. We always teased my mother because we had curtains that lasted for years. But they cost eighty dollars a pair. Lace curtains. And as I said, she was very thrifty. My father was devoted to his sons-in-law but it would never have occurred to him to give his daughters an allowance.

Baum: You mentioned your grandmother, did she live with you?

McLaughlin: She lived with us most of the time. She visited about, but her home was with us. And she died when I was about 14.

Baum: Were there other relatives that lived with you?

McLaughlin: No, not at that time. There was one time when my mother's sister lived with us and her son lived with us. But, finally, it was just the grandmother who made her home with us.

Baum: I told you I was looking through an old San Francisco Directory and I found a lady called Emma Swett. Was that your grandmother?

McLaughlin: No, my grandmother was Elizabeth Swett. I don't know who Emma Swett would be. We have an aunt who was a Swett, but she was Emma Bandy who lived with us.

Baum: That was just another Swett and no relation to you. Did you study music when you were a child?

McLaughlin: Everybody had music lessons. My mother really played very nicely. My older sister studied piano and worked awfully hard at it. She had, you know, Holfelt, this man who had Mrs. Morrison's money. Her father was a very fine German music teacher. And he taught my sister. She really worked hard on it. My sister and I took lessons but never got very far. My mother worked on us but she finally decided it was hopeless. By that time she might have gotten too tired, I don't know. (Laughter)

Baum: Maybe she thought one daughter who played well was sufficient.

McLaughlin: Oh yes, my sister really worked on it. I don't mean to say she did anything remarkable, but she really worked. Her husband had this great skill in playing by ear and he could do it so easily and did it so well, you know, he didn't really work at it. (Laughter) He could go to a light opera and come home and play the whole thing through.

Baum: Different people have told us about the custom of calling. And I wondered if your family participated in that?

McLaughlin: I think my mother's card said the first Tuesday. And then people would come on that day and call on us.

Baum: And did she go out calling much?

McLaughlin: I don't remember her doing that sort of thing. But everybody had a day.

Baum: Yes. In fact I've seen the little book that lists the days the different people were at home.

McLaughlin: That was always on your calling card. The earthquake changed a good deal of that. Living was much less complicated after the earthquake. And these great banquets of ten courses--after the earthquake and after the First World War social life was simplified. And a great many well-to-do people had left San Francisco for New York. After the earthquake the change in financial standings of families had been seriously affected. I think that all affected the formalities. Then, Burlingame invited most of these people out of San Francisco. And the social life was really in the hands of the Burlingame group. When we were children many of these people were over in San Rafael. But the automobile changed the life on the Peninsula. So many people moved down there. They might have homes in San Francisco, but a great many of them just went down there and lived. The more discussed social life, from about 1910 on, was down in Burlingame.

Baum: I guess that's still true. When you read the society page it's still going on down in Burlingame, mostly. You think that formality moved down there?

McLaughlin: The more formal, elaborate occasions. You haven't any idea of the sort of banquets people gave when they had dinner. Let's see if I can remember. In the first place, women never had cocktails. If there were cocktails the men had them. And the ladies just waited. You'd have a soup. Then you'd have an entrée, and then there would be fish. Then there would be a meat and then a salad. And then there would be a sherbet, or something frozen. There were ten courses. And there was wine with each course. Not many people had all this.

Baum: Did your mother have to give that kind of banquet?

McLaughlin: Oh no. She wouldn't do it. (Laughter) My mother was a very independent woman.

Baum: And it wasn't necessary to you young ladies to give dinners like that.

McLaughlin: Oh no. We had dinners occasionally. We used to have close friends spending a good deal of time with us.

Baum: Did you have parties--teenage parties?

McLaughlin: Sure. We always played cards. People like ourselves didn't pay for money.

Baum: These parties where the girls played cards, these were just for girls?

McLaughlin: We'd invite them for cards at say two o'clock in the afternoon. Then you'd have refreshments.

Baum: And how about parties where you'd invite boys? Was that done very often?

McLaughlin: Why yes, occasionally. At certain times, say for some reason, there would be a party. I can assume occasionally there were dancing parties. But people belonged-- There were informal dances. Or you could have a card party at night, girls and boys. But all of this was so much more simple. Sometimes there were clubs that met every so often. But people were not fanatical about cards then the way they have developed since.

Baum: What about roller skating or ice skating? Wasn't that popular then?

McLaughlin: My sister was very good at ice skating. And roller skating--there were roller skating rinks; maybe it was just in our family, but no one was particularly interested. My sister was good on ice skates.

Baum: How about going to places like Sutro's Gardens or special amusement parks?

McLaughlin: We'd go swimming at Sutro's Baths. You'd go to Sutro's Gardens and have a picnic occasionally.

We went to the theatre occasionally. Life was very simple. Except for the group of people who made pleasure a business. In every city

McLaughlin: there's a group of people who are wealthy and tremendously interested in the social life. That was a smaller, much tighter group than it is now. The discrimination between the group in Burlingame--class lines are very loosely drawn now.

Baum: You're saying they weren't so loosely drawn then.

McLaughlin: Oh no.

Baum: In those days you had a certain group you went with and you didn't see any other people. How about in school? Would you meet girls from other groups?

McLaughlin: Oh yes, in school we knew all of these other people--the leaders down in Burlingame. They went to Miss West's for a while at least. But their life was different from our life.

Baum: When you were children, did you play mostly with your brother and sisters? Or did you play with the neighborhood children?

McLaughlin: Mostly with the family, but some with the neighborhood. I have some recollection of when we lived on Bryant Street. This was near South Park. Our Sunday afternoons were quite exciting. One of the neighbors took the children over to walk over to the top of Rincon Hill. (Laughter) We went to church.

Church

Baum: You went to church once a week or more often?

McLaughlin: We were Protestants--Episcopalians. But, later, when we belonged to the Unitarian Church--churches were apt to be for a certain group of middle class families who were not socially prominent or very wealthy. Church was a social center.

McLaughlin: And there was a delightful and very interesting group at the Unitarian Church, for which Miss Stebbins' father, Dr. Horatio Stebbins, was minister. It's the same church that's there on Geary and Franklin Streets.

Baum: When did you go there?

McLaughlin: When I was a child, we went to the Episcopal church. And, unfortunately, at almost every church there is a woman who bosses children around.

We had a very happy time at the Unitarian church, always. My nice elder sister taught the infant class. She did decorations in the church. She made things all year that no one wanted and had a fair and nobody wanted to buy them, but they did. (Laughter)

Our school was the center of the social life. Except for the very prominent social families who lived elaborately and of which you've heard about. They were in the school, too, more or less.

Baum: In Miss West's school? But you didn't mix with them much after hours?

McLaughlin: Well, you knew them. But by the time you were going to college you didn't get home until 4:00 in the afternoon.

Baum: When did your family switch to the Unitarian Church?

McLaughlin: I was twelve years old.

Baum: So at the time you started Miss West's you also switched to the Unitarian Church. And then did that mean that the church was a more prominent part of your social life?

McLaughlin: It really was.

Baum: Was this you girls or you children that switched churches particularly? Or was it your parents, too?

McLaughlin: My parents. I insisted that my daughter be married by the Unitarian minister. I felt that this was her grandmother's church. I should have allowed her to do what she wanted.

You realize how people in early America spent their church hours. My father was brought up as a Catholic. But their way of handling their church connections was the same as my mother's. On Sunday, they went to Sunday school in the morning. Then they went to church. No food was cooked on Sunday. It was all cooked on Saturday. I think maybe they had some hot tea or hot soup. They went to Sunday school in the afternoon, then they went to church again. Then my mother would go home and my grandfather would take her on his knee and she would have to recite the text for the minister.

Baum: This was in the Episcopal Church?

McLaughlin: Yes.

Baum: I didn't realize they were quite as ardent about that as some of the other denominations.

McLaughlin: I think mainly it was the Baptists. But when we were youngsters, we went to the Episcopal Church and there was always some part of it. I remember being in a play there.

You couldn't play cards generally on Sunday. As long as my grandmother lived, we weren't even allowed to sew on Sunday. I'll never forget my grandmother finding me with needle and thread.

Baum: Sewing is not entertainment.

McLaughlin: It was just New England. There was nothing hilarious on Sunday. Sunday is much more observed today; I think more people choose to go to church. Then it was just a family custom. It wasn't as strict as it was in my mother's day when you went morning, noon, and night. You went to Sunday school, then you went to church afterwards. And that was the end of that.

McLaughlin: Of course I remember much more distinctly--- Dr. Stebbins really stood for something. You would never miss going to his church. He was a wonderful person, a great leader, a great spiritual factor in your life.

Baum: How is it that your father gave up Catholicism? That's quite a jump.

McLaughlin: I don't think it was any effort at all.

Baum: He wasn't a very religious man?

McLaughlin: I don't mean that. It was inconceivable that--I don't believe there was ever any discussion about it.

Baum: Had he stopped being Catholic before he married your mother?

McLaughlin: I don't know about his church attendance. But I do know this, there was no discussion about it. My husband had said to me, "Your father was brought up as a Catholic, remember that when he dies, he ought to see a priest. No Catholic ever gives up completely." In my father's last illness, he was calling up out of it. And I said to him, "Would you like to have me get a priest?" And then he shook his head and with the sweetest smile, said, "A priest never, your mother was my religion." There was never any discussion about it. He was brought up a Catholic and he respected it. But I never knew of his going to church, except for a funeral. That wasn't necessary. He got his values in another way. There was no friction ever.

Baum: He went to the Unitarian Church then?

McLaughlin: No. On the way home he'd meet us on Sunday mornings. Dr. Stebbins would say to him, "Mr. Moffat, I'm going to get you in there some day." And he'd say, "I just go Sunday mornings and go over things and see that everything's all right." He said, "Mr. Moffat, some day you're going to give me the pleasure of coming to my church." There was always this little joke. But my mother was very much interested in the church.

McLaughlin: And the social habits of middle class people, in those days, being what they were, that was perfectly normal.

Baum: Oh yes.

McLaughlin: It was the normal activity, as well as people in the school and the other average social things.

Summertime

Baum: What else did your family do for entertainment?

McLaughlin: Oh, we went away in the summertime for a month or two.

Baum: Did you go to the mountains?

McLaughlin: No, we didn't go to the Sierras. We went up in Lake County. We didn't go as far as the Sierras for a month. Later, of course, after we were a little older, my mother saw that we saw the view spots--Tahoe. The year after I went to college we went to Yosemite for a visit. But in the summertime my father thought we should go off where it was very hot. (Laughter)

Then in our twenties, my sister and I started off on the Sierra Club. Of course that's a life work. Your Sierra Club group, the people you camp with, are the people you care for more than anybody else. I was married and my sister continued on in the mountains. I was away when my sister died. And even before I got back my daughter had said, "Anything in remembrance, please send to the Sierra Club."

Baum: So that was a very important part of your life.

McLaughlin: Unless you've been off in the high mountains you don't know what it does to you.

Baum: I know that a lot of people, particularly from that era, took inspiration from their month in the mountains in the summer.

McLaughlin: It was a wonderful spiritual experience. Our gratitude to a man, Mr. Colby, who's been dead just a year, was profound. I've forgotten what Sproul said when he gave him the degree but it ended with a sentence like this, "And there's something about nature. And he's led thousands to worship at her feet." Conservation in California is all based on what the Sierra Club did.

Baum: We have an interview with Mr. Colby on the Sierra Club.

McLaughlin: He talked too much about John Muir. (Laughter)

Baum: Yes. Well, that's right, we have one interview with him on John Muir.

McLaughlin: Mr. Colby was a great teacher. I wrote to him just before he died. This doesn't happen usually. You mean to. And he was dead within a couple of days. Colby was a great lawyer. He was one of the great mining lawyers.

Baum: It seemed like the men who went to the mountains got inspiration there for whatever was their field.

McLaughlin: All their lives, yes. You take these--I wish you could talk with Walter Starr about his connection with conservation in California. He's on the Save-the-Redwoods-League. When he was in college, he and Allen Chickering, Sr., went off together several summers for three months. And his eldest son was killed in the mountains. Walter's story of how he was killed in the mountains is really something. The Sierra Club gave him a citation. He's 88 years old, so if you're going to do this thing you'd better get to it.

I keep thinking of one night when he and Mr. Chickering together told me the story of their time in the mountains. Those were wonderful stories. They held our full interest.

Mother's Investments

Baum: I was wondering what your mother's particular interests were.

McLaughlin: She was tremendously interested in working with my father. She and my father were partners. She was his complete confidant and she backed him in every way. She was not particularly interested in the things that women are. She saw that her house was well run and that her money was well spent, and that her children had the background she thought they ought to have. But toward the end of her life because she couldn't get my father interested in putting any money that he made in property, about from 1900 on, she was working in stocks and bonds. And she made a great deal, for a woman.

Baum: She invested her own money?

McLaughlin: My father didn't pay very much attention to it. He knew that she knew what she was doing and he was busy with what he was doing. By 1912 she had made almost as much as he had.

In 1893 he had been in partnership with his brother and their separation was an unhappy one. And in '93 he started all over again. But she was very successful. And she used what she had to establish credit for my brother, so that he could be independent and get on his own feet, aside from our company.

Baum: Had she had any background in business?

McLaughlin: No, she just was a natural financier. She had a very good mind. Her investments were remarkable.

Baum: Did you have financiers as friends that came and talked to her about this?

McLaughlin: No, she went around and found out what she wanted to do for herself. Very few women did it in those days. She decided what was good. Some of the investments were things that you had to wait for years for.

Baum: Did you know what kinds of things she specialized in?

McLaughlin: She had a large block of Associated Oil. She had a big block in Hercules Powder. And she had three or four other things.

Baum: I wondered if she knew of local companies.

McLaughlin: Hercules Powder was local. Associated Oil was local, in California.

Baum: It sounds like she wasn't a big homemaker, as far as spending a lot of time at it.

McLaughlin: Oh, she was home all the time. She was a homemaker. But she could do that and do this other thing on the outside. She wasn't especially interested in any social activities. She worked in the Unitarian Church. I'm not sure but that the average woman bored her.

Baum: She didn't go in for women's clubs then? I guess there weren't so many then.

McLaughlin: Oh yes, there were. The Century Club, now, was founded by women, all of whom were intellectually interested in things. That sort of thing didn't interest her. She was always nice to young people, especially when they were growing families. But she was never away from the house. From four to five in the afternoon she was there and ready for my father to come home, and ready to sit down and talk to him and completely relieve his mind. They were partners. There was a wonderful companionship.

Baum: And what time did you eat dinner?

McLaughlin: Oh, about six.

Baum: And you all ate together?

McLaughlin: Yes.

Baum: Did you have much company?

McLaughlin: Our house was not crowded with people. But as you grow older people are coming and going all the time.

Baum: Your friends.

McLaughlin: Yes.

Baum: Did your father bring home business associates?

McLaughlin: Some of them, not a great deal. He did most of his business in the day time.

Baum: Or church people you knew?

McLaughlin: No. My mother went to church. She helped them out at the fair, and she entertained whoever was necessary for us and always saw that it was provided. When we were children there were a great many of the ranch people coming back and forth and staying with us. But in later years she became interested in what she was doing and she spent a tremendous amount of her time on it. She had great courage. (Laughter) She took terrific chances. It paid off.

Baum: Yes. But it sounds so unusual for a woman in those days.

McLaughlin: It was unusual. She really tried to get my father to invest in real estate. And when he didn't do it, she just took up this thing herself.

Baum: I think you said your father was a Democrat.

McLaughlin: She would not go to political meetings with him. She wasn't a bit interested in politics. (Laughter)

Baum: Oh, is that right. The partnership didn't go that far.

McLaughlin: When I was old enough I'd go to the political meetings with him.

Baum: Was your father active in politics?

McLaughlin: When I was a youngster and when he was a young man, he was very much interested in the Democratic Party. But as he grew older, the people he worked with had gone--in his later years. But he was a staunch Democrat all his life.

Baum: You say you went to some of the political meetings with him.

McLaughlin: I always went to political meetings with him.

Baum: Do you think that's where you got your interest in that kind of thing?

McLaughlin: I think so.

Baum: Do you remember any campaigns he worked on particularly?

McLaughlin: He, no.

Miss West's School

Baum: You've mentioned that you attended Miss West's School.

McLaughlin: Yes. My sisters Elizabeth, Henrietta, and myself were sent to Miss West's school when I was twelve. My eldest sister had gone through high school there and then we were sent to high school there. We went to public schools until then. That school was the mother of schools here: Miss Hamlin, Miss Ransom, both of these women worked for Miss West.

Baum: And this is what you would do with a girl. You would send her to one of these private high schools.

McLaughlin: I presume they thought the public high schools were not very good. I don't know why because the Boys High School certainly produced a lot of people who amounted to a great deal intellectually: Governor Young, Neil McKinley Stanwood, who afterwards did many things, Aurelia Reinhardt went to Boys High School.

Baum: Wasn't that supposed to be for boys only?

McLaughlin: It was supposed to be the best high school. Though a great many fine people of Henrietta's

McLaughlin: age and mine went to the Girls High School. Take Mrs. Roberta Davidson, who was formerly Dean of Women at Berkeley, she came down from Red Bluff and went to Girls High School. There weren't a great many high schools, you know.

Baum: I know. And everybody didn't go to high school.

McLaughlin: I know a lot of the men scattered around California that were distinguished graduates of UC who came from all sorts of directions--Oakland High School.

Baum: How was the public school? Was that a good school in your opinion?

McLaughlin: I thought I was perfectly well taken care of in primary and grammar school. My sister was two years older and we both went into Miss West's at the same time.

I can say this, I was grateful because the teachers there were the sort that would be teaching college now. They were really very fine. One or two especially were awfully good.

Baum: Did they have high academic standards there? I think a lot of schools at that level were more of finishing schools.

McLaughlin: Miss Jackson was the head of the high school and she was one of the early graduates of Cornell. Miss West, the principal of the school, never taught. She was from Boston. I don't really know what her academic standards were. She had really exceptional teachers. Miss Hamlin came there and taught. Miss Ransom taught for a while just after she got out of Vassar. Miss Mary Wilson, who was at Miss Head's for years, I don't know that she taught at Miss West's so much as she coached people for her. So that high grade of women who would now be deans--Lucy Stebbins went there, too. She prepared to go to Radcliffe there, and some prepared for Vassar, and Wellesley, too. They prepared students very well.

Baum: And the girls who went to Miss West's intended to go on to college, is that right?

McLaughlin: No. Just a few. They did it to just clear college. (Laughter)

Baum: I don't think very many girls went to college then. They went home and stayed with mother until they got married. I wondered what kind of curriculum they had at Miss West's?

McLaughlin: They had a better curriculum than they have in high schools now. We did not have algebra until we went to high school. We had algebra and geometry. We had Latin, the usual first year's Latin; then we had Caesar and Cicero before we went to college. In French we had--by the time I left Miss West's and came over here and was introduced to the head of the French Department by a woman who was a great friend of my sister's (her husband was on the faculty). And the head of the French Department had inspected us--the French teaching at Miss West's. And he asked me what I had read. We had just finished reading Victor Hugo and he gave me fifteen hours units when I came to college. (Laughter)

I had a full semester given me as I entered. I'm not saying that that was right but he had great respect for the teacher.

In history we had ancient history, modern history. We had American history and American government. We had French history and English history.

Baum: And do you think it was well taught?

McLaughlin: Oh, excellently taught. The woman in Latin couldn't have been better. The woman in history was a type of person like Miss Towle. Miss Jackson was a great leader afterwards in the suffrage movement. I don't think anybody had better training in Latin than we had. But we had very poor training in English. The teacher happened not to be good. But the rest of the teachers couldn't have been better. We had physics, too, along with the rest of it. No chemistry. Now that's a much heavier course than the average high school girl has now.

Baum: Let's see, now that's math, two languages, history, English, and physics. Six classes.

McLaughlin: Now for instance, Miss Stebbins was going to Radcliffe so she had Greek.

Baum: In addition?

McLaughlin: And they were excellent.

Baum: This would be an hour a day per subject?

McLaughlin: Yes, but the studying was much... School ended at one o'clock and I seldom left before four.

Baum: I see. You were expected to stay in a study hall.

McLaughlin: Yes. No, you really weren't. But it stuck with you. For instance, my daughter was entering college from California-- She went to Vassar for two years. She had not been well trained at Miss Burke's in Latin. And she wanted to take an examination--she took a couple of comprehensives a year before she went. And we did Cicero together. I had a pony for the vocabulary, but the rules had stuck by me. They had been pounded into me. I've forgotten them all now. But she and I spent three weeks doing Cicero. She got an A on it. I didn't trust it to the school because they were just ignoring the fact that they had such a poor Latin teacher.

So we were given excellent instruction. Those women were awfully well trained. Miss Ransom taught us for two years before she came over to Miss Head's and later started Miss Ransom's School. Miss Blanchard who gave us Latin started a school of her own. Miss Hamlin, as I told you, worked for Miss West. And Mary Wilson, who worked at Miss Head's after Miss Ransom, coached.

Baum: What do you mean by coached?

McLaughlin: She was the tutor for the girls who needed help. So Miss West's was really the mother of schools, in this area. Miss Blanchard and Miss Gamble went, I think, to Santa Barbara. That didn't last too long. [Mary Gamble ran Miss Gamble's School in Santa Barbara.] They were fine teachers.

McLaughlin: Miss Murison's was another school in San Francisco. She was a fine teacher.

Baum: I've heard of Miss Lake's, too.

McLaughlin: Miss Lake preceded all of these. She had been taken into Miss Hamlin's School. So, evidently, she turned her school over to Miss Hamlin. I don't believe she sold to Miss Hamlin, but she may have.

Baum: And I've heard of Madame Zitska.

McLaughlin: Yes. Was she at Miss Lake's or was she on her own? I've forgotten. But she was there. None of them really were as good as Miss West's. It was a good school.

Baum: And that was the reputation Miss West's had at the time, of academic excellence? Or was it also social prestige?

McLaughlin: No, it was academic excellence. The social group went there. But they seldom finished high school there. They went to some finishing school.

Baum: Was it difficult to get in to Miss West's?

McLaughlin: No, I don't think so.

Baum: Were there any examinations that you had to take?

McLaughlin: No. Miss West was very strict in regard to standards. And also, behavior. She had quite a hard time with some of these people.

Baum: What kind of behavior was expected of you girls?

McLaughlin: Oh, we were supposed to be good little girls.

Baum: Did you have to dress in any particular way?

McLaughlin: No. This is one thing they did not do until modern times, no. We were supposed to be dressed simply enough. They were strict in every sense. And Miss Jackson, the head of the high school, was so interesting and fine a

McLaughlin: person that she treated the students with respect and most of them lived up to it.

Baum: Did you have physical education of any kind?

McLaughlin: Oh yes. I played basketball. Some of those people are exceedingly good at basketball. But when we came over here [to U.C.], you see, you had to give up your noon hour. There were no facilities for girls for the first two years that I came to college.

Baum: Oh, no gym?

McLaughlin: No gym for girls.

Baum: Oh, is that right! Of course that would be against the state law now. (Laughter)

McLaughlin: Girls were only tolerated here.

Baum: Yes.

McLaughlin: We had a good gymnasium at Miss West's.

Baum: How about things like art or drawing, music? Was it that kind of school?

McLaughlin: There were facilities for music for those that needed it. And they had art classes, too. Miss Hamlin's had some wonderful art classes. They had a pretty broad basis. The school was not designed to send people to college. It was to send young ladies out with as much education as a woman needed at that time. They did preparing for college too.

Baum: Was there some other school that would specialize in preparing girls for college? Or was that just not done for girls?

McLaughlin: It just wasn't done. A great many girls, of course, went to the Girls High School and came right into college.

Baum: Was that more aimed at preparing girls for college or were they terminal, too?

McLaughlin: They were terminal. Some of them came to college.

CHAPTER II

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY, 1898-1902

Girls in College

Baum: How did you happen to come to college?

McLaughlin: I don't know. (Laughter) I think probably Miss West said to my mother, "You'd better send Emma to college."

Baum: Did you have any aspirations that required you to go to college?

McLaughlin: All I can remember is that the last year at Miss West's I was working hard. And I didn't have any time to take art lessons because I had to keep grinding away at some of the things that I had to have for graduation. They demanded a really full program.

Baum: Did many of the other young ladies that you went to school with or played with, go to college?

McLaughlin: Not many. There were a few that went to Vassar. And Miss Stebbins went to Radcliffe. I don't believe Bryn Mawr was started at that time. Smith was, of course, but I never knew anybody at that time who went to Smith. I know Smith was going because Adelaide Brown graduated from Smith.

Baum: Did you know Lucy Stebbins then as a girl?

McLaughlin: Her father was minister of the church we went to.

Baum: Was she the same age as you?

McLaughlin: She was in the same class.

Baum: I see. Perhaps both of you inspired each other to go to college.

McLaughlin: Oh no. It was natural that Lucy should go to college. She had a magnificent mind, always. Whatever there was to do she just did it. For instance, with the Greek language. She took all the rest of it, and Greek. No effort on her part.

Now you're queer if you don't go to college and you have a hard time socially if you don't go to college. In those days you were queer if you went to college.

Baum: Yes. And that's why I was wondering why you went to college. You had two older sisters and they didn't go to college. And your brother didn't go to college. How did your parents even....

McLaughlin: My father never gave his consent. I don't mean to say he made any objections. But he certainly didn't feel it was a necessity in any way. He said, "If your mother says it's all right, that's fine. But I think there are other things you could do." There was never any discussion about it. I was just going to go to college. But you were considered queer. You'd get some of the funniest flings.

One of the most brilliant girls that we ever had at Miss West's--naturally brilliant--you know there's a certain type of Jewess that seems just to have come into the world and by almost a process of osmosis learns everything--you've seen that type of person. They're surrounded by so many cultural effects and they've traveled so much. This girl was just as smart and brilliant and quick of mind, with a real cultural background. Her last fling at me was "You're going over to that place."

Baum: She wasn't going to college?

McLaughlin: No, she never went.

Baum: And even she didn't approve.

McLaughlin: It wasn't done. One of the best students and one I enjoyed tremendously--her father was one of the federal judges--we worked constantly at the school. And she was a tremendously hard worker as a student. I actually never saw her after I graduated. Every once in a while I'd get a message from her. But her father started her off traveling, I guess. Her sister was married to a navy man and she finally married one of the Roosevelts. And every once in a while I'd get a message from her. But your life was entirely different.

Baum: I understand that in those days to go to the University of California was not as socially acceptable as if you'd gone to Vassar.

McLaughlin: It certainly was considered much better than Stanford.

Baum: Oh, is that right?

McLaughlin: Oh, there was no comparison.

Baum: How about Mills? Was Mills considered highly?

McLaughlin: Mills wasn't a college. It was still a seminary. And they were doing a very good job out there. And a great many girls from the fine families in the country sent their girls to Mills. And they had some exceptional things, among them music. I think there wasn't a music department here at Berkeley.

I really grew to know the faculty quite well because for two years I lived with the Risings. And he was one of the early professors. He was the head of the chemistry department. The faculty came back and forth in their home. And besides I heard them discussed. (Laughter)

Baum: When you came over here to Berkeley, you lived over here?

McLaughlin: I went home Friday afternoons, but I lived here.

Baum: Was it your first two years that you lived with the Risings?

McLaughlin: Yes.

Baum: Some of the girls commuted, I know.

McLaughlin: Lots of them did. My mother made that decision, that I live here. This friend of my elder sister's, who lived over here and whose husband was in mathematics, told her that she understood that the Risings would have a place there for somebody. And I went there. And my mother was perfectly happy. And I was very fortunate. They lived delightfully and I was part of the household. All of the professors took students in.

Baum: Oh, is that right?

McLaughlin: That's the way they paid their Chinese cooks.

Baum: Oh, the students paid for their board and that paid for the cook. Is that right?

McLaughlin: Yes.

Baum: Well, now, how many students were living with the Rising family?

McLaughlin: Two were there, myself and another.

Baum: And did the Risings have children of their own?

McLaughlin: Two daughters and a son.

Baum: So it was quite a large household. And you roomed and boarded there? Or did you just room?

McLaughlin: I roomed and boarded. This is the way the students were scattered through Berkeley.

Baum: And would Mrs. Rising have chaperone or mother duties?

McLaughlin: She certainly knew what you were doing all the time.

Baum: I gather the girls didn't need as much chaperoning in those days as they do now.

McLaughlin: Social life had very strict standards for girls. There were certain things you did and certain things you didn't do and that was all. There were one or two really stunning great belles. But most of the women that came really were students. The number of girls began to increase very quickly after that. More and more of them came to college. And more and more attractive girls came to college.

Sororities, Fraternities, and Social Life

Baum: I was wondering about the sororities. Were they a prominent part of social life?

McLaughlin: My sorority was Kappa Kappa Gamma. When I came to college there were Kappas and Thetas and the Gamma Phis. The sororities were small, about four or six in a class. I suppose that probably they had the same effect then that they have now. I think the parents didn't participate as much then. It's been the parents in the last twenty years that have caused so much trouble. (Laughter) Feeling their social standing in life is gone if their children don't make something that's supposed to be good. As a matter of fact, in those days, there was just a group that naturally had a little more freedom, a little more financial background--although I don't know that that was true. However, we have to face the fact that there always have been the psychological scars due to exclusive social groups.

Baum: If there were only three sororities that wouldn't take care of very many girls.

McLaughlin: There weren't many girls. Total up the number of girls that were in college in 1900 and just make an equation of it. (Laughter) The Alpha Phis were organized soon after that. So that made four. The Pi Phis were organized after I left college. That makes five. The Tri Delts came shortly after that or about that time.

Baum: Was your sorority experience a significant one? Was that the way you made close friends?

McLaughlin: Oh yes. That's where your close friends were. There's no doubt about that.

Baum: Then you'd have been excluded from that kind of companionship if you didn't join.

McLaughlin: Yes. I think probably it was more exclusive then than now because for instance my granddaughter went through college with her best friend that she came to college with and they still are best friends. It affects their lives much less now. With sixty girls in a chapter, you know, there's not the close cohesion that there was in those days.

Baum: It sounds like it must have been important then to join if you could. You couldn't have gotten the same thing some other way.

McLaughlin: I never knew what it was all about until it was all over. It wasn't that I went to college thinking now this is something that's essential. I came to college and there were no rules about rushing, no rules about asking. There was no Panhellenic. Each one went by itself. They asked when they were ready. And that settled it.

Baum: So you didn't have to seriously search your conscience as to whether you should join or not. (Laughter)

McLaughlin: That's where your friends were.

Baum: Did the sororities have living facilities?

McLaughlin: Yes, all of them did.

Baum: Oh they all did. And did you live at the sorority house?

McLaughlin: My mother didn't let me do it the first two years. But I lived there the last two years. The Risings went to Europe. But my mother knew I was better cared for at the Risings.

Baum: At the sorority house did they have a sorority mother?

McLaughlin: The Kappas had a sorority house. There was a family that had a home. And their daughter was one of the leaders in the Kappas. And they gave their house. The mother, the one small boy, and the sister who was very much older than the boy--the sorority ran the house, paid all the expenses--and they lived there for the rent, through an informal arrangement.

Baum: And the mother served as your sorority mother?

McLaughlin: Yes. She was a very fine leader. But that ended before I went into the house. That house has since been knocked down. You started in with very simple beginnings. But you had a good housemother and somebody running the house.

Baum: Did the fraternities have as bad a reputation for hiliarity and so on as they do now?

McLaughlin: No. Believe it or not the Dekes were gentlemen and ended up the finest men in San Francisco. The Zetes weren't any better than they are now. But the Betas and the Dekes were very fine people. The finest men in San Francisco were Dekes. Every once in a while there would be something that would shock us. There were usually one or two that were too hilarious. But their general social behavior was not a problem at all.

Baum: I suppose for one thing, all the boys were well known so that you didn't have that anonymous feeling you can enjoy now.

McLaughlin: Most of them came from families that.... Many of them worked their way through college.

Baum: I don't suppose there were many girls working their way through college in those days, were there?

McLaughlin: I never knew a girl who worked her way through college. Their families made a great effort to send them.

Baum: What were the expenses? Living expenses.

McLaughlin: Nothing was expensive as compared to now. Let me see, how much did it cost me to live with the Risings? I don't believe it was $50 a month, I imagine it was about $35.

Baum: How about clothing? Was that a big expense then? Were there high standards that you had to meet?

McLaughlin: Oh no. Shirtwaists and skirts. The only difficulty was that, of course, our skirts were long. I didn't have a tailored suit until I was eighteen. And it had a train in the back. And I'd have to grab that along with a bunch of books that I was taking home to study. (Laughter)

Baum: I'm sure the paths were kind of muddy.

McLaughlin: Our skirts were not adapted to our activities. Modern clothes came in as a uniform for the things you do in life.

Baum: I would think it would take quite a bit to maintain a young lady at home. She would have more social activities, perhaps, than she would if they sent her off to college.

McLaughlin: Of course there was a good deal of social activity that came along with being in college. Making friends and then the sorority was always putting pressure on the home houses for entertaining.

Baum: Oh I see. So there would be a certain amount of entertaining your parents would have to do to meet your social obligations. And did you need a lot of dresses for proms or that kind of thing?

McLaughlin: Frequently they wore cottons. You never saw very much of silk dresses except for exceptional things.

Baum: I've always wondered how they kept those long dresses clean. Some of them wouldn't be washable. Would you have them dry cleaned?

McLaughlin: No. But there were so many of your dresses that were cotton. As a matter of fact your college

McLaughlin: clothes were about what girls wear now. Only they wore skirts and sweaters and blouses and all of this had to be made and the skirts had to be shortened later. If you had a Knox hat, which was the flat sailor hat and cost you five or ten dollars, this was the end of life--to have a Knox hat. And then you had to have, I've forgotten the name of the shoes--nice shoes. You wore blouses.

Baum: Oh, but they were hard things to iron, weren't they? Fluffy, high-necked.

McLaughlin: Oh yes, they were high necked. Guimpes, carefully held up--I don't think we wore those. I think the high-necked blouses did the job in college. But the skirts were too long.

Baum: And were those high shoes that you're speaking of?

McLaughlin: Oh yes. Not very pretty.

Baum: Did the school sponsor many parties?

McLaughlin: There weren't nearly as many parties as there are now. There was nothing like one sorority depending on one fraternity to be the boys that would take care of them. There was nothing like that. As a rule there was one big dance a year at each fraternity and sorority. I've forgotten about college dances. I suppose there were a good many of them.

Baum: There must have been a junior and senior prom.

McLaughlin: Yes, those were in the gymnasium.

Baum: And how about the theater? Did the students go to the theater?

McLaughlin: Going back and forth into town took time. I suppose they did.

Baum: Were there many campus productions of plays?

McLaughlin: I don't remember any. There may have been. The little theater movement was not so common. There wasn't any little theater movement that I can remember.

Baum: Did you take part in anything like the school paper or any extra-curricular activities? I imagine the sorority took quite a bit of time.

McLaughlin: Yes, it did. Prytanean was established. We were terribly amused by the woman who started it. It turned out to be really a power of good, didn't it? The woman who started it was really a queer one.

Baum: I heard that Mrs. Hearst used to hold open house.

McLaughlin: Mrs. Hearst came over here in 1901 and rented a house up beyond Piedmont Avenue, and enlarged it by building on to it. It was afterwards used as a women's gymnasium. She gave musicales. Every girl was invited once a semester for a musicale. And you were also invited once to another function. She lived here for several years. This was before her son was married. And that was the time she was just pouring out money for the University.

Baum: I've heard that she took a great interest, particularly in girls.

McLaughlin: It was a great privilege. There are always some people who will find fault when a gracious person of wealth does a thing like this. "Why should I go to her house? She doesn't know me." I said, "I think you miss a lot if you don't go. She and her niece and a protegee of hers were always beautifully gowned and most charming hostesses. Mrs. Hearst was the type of person that, like any good hostess, knew the person who was shy or didn't mingle--didn't know how to mingle--and she'd seek that person out and surround her with people. And she wouldn't leave until she thought she had a fixed group around her. Only, invariably, the group would drop away and then she'd go back again. She was a wonderful hostess. It was a great pleasure to see her lovely clothes, beautiful jewels. It was lots of fun. I loved it.

Mrs. Hearst left here when her son married and had children. But she was awfully generous, too generous, to the University I always thought. If things wouldn't have been bad, they wouldn't

McLaughlin: have been able to lean on her for everything. But she gave that building that she had built. And it was moved, I think. It was the women's gym until the very ornate women's gymnasium was built.

Baum: I think it burned in that Berkeley fire and then they built this new gym.

McLaughlin: For years they went up to a place at Pleasanton for part of the commencement exercises. That was part of commencement weekend, to go out there. She gave a reception and you went and spent the day there.

Baum: Was Lucy Sprague here after you were?

McLauglin: Yes, it was after I left. She was the first dean of women. In fact, I met her but I scarcely knew her.

Baum: Then there wasn't any dean of women when you were here.

McLaughlin: I don't know that there was a dean of men.

Baum: Who served that function?

McLaughlin: Nobody did.

Baum: A girl might need to consult with somebody sometime.

McLaughlin: I never heard of anybody. The group was small and busy. That has a great deal to do with it.

Faculty, Courses, and Grading

Baum: How much did you have to study? How did it compare with your high school studying?

McLaughlin: You really had to study in order to keep up.

Baum: About how many courses would you take in a semester?

McLaughlin: We generally had between sixteen and seventeen hours. You had English and history. You had to have ten hours of mathematics before you graduated. That was trigonometry, calculus, and logarithms. They reduced that the moment that I finished them up.

Baum: I take it that you didn't like math. (Laughter)

McLaughlin: We had trigonometry, spherical geometry, and calculus and logarithms. No, I didn't. If you did well enough in your daily recitations you could take a "2" and not take the examination, which was terribly nice. That would be a B. We were on a 1-2-3 grading system. I think that was for two years after I got to college. If you didn't want to take examinations you didn't have to.

Baum: If you were satisfied with a B (2) average, you didn't have to strive for an A for some reason.

McLaughlin: No. But you really had to work. You couldn't get through unless you did the work.

Baum: I think you were remarking the other day that you thought it wasn't any harder now than it was then.

McLaughlin: I doubt it, personally. There's always conversation about this. I don't especially think that what you have to know really is greater now. For instance, the final year in philosophy I had to read Kant's Critique of Pure Reason and write a paper on it. I got through it.

Baum: Who were some of the leading faculty here at U.C.?

McLaughlin: Moses was in history. Slate was physics. Willard Rising was chemistry. I lived with his family for two years. These were heads of the departments. There were the two Le Contes--the two brothers. The Mining School trained those men that were sent out to South Africa.

Joe Le Conte's son was J.N. Le Conte and he was the head of the Mining School. The history department, I think, was an exceptional

McLaughlin: department long before Morse Stephens ever came here. I am not one of Morse Stephens' admirers.

And I couldn't bear Dr. Gayley, the head of the English department. He attracted women and not men, and so he insulted us. The name of Gayley is very much idolized around here. But there were some fine people in the department. On classic myths there was Syle. And then--one of the Sierra Club highlights now is a scientist whose father was in that English department, Bradley. The English department was really a good department.

Baum: Did you take a course with Professor Syle?

McLaughlin: Yes. Professor Syle was interesting. Gayley, of course, was a popular man. And that's why he started this Great Books course. Girls filled his classes. He wanted men.

Baum: I don't think I understand that. You mean, he wanted men to be his proteges?

McLaughlin: He wanted men as students. His classes were just filled with women.

Baum: Was that because of his attraction or they liked the subject?

McLaughlin: It was a subject that women took to more. And there were so many women that men didn't come into it. I think that was it.

Baum: The boys were afraid of the class full of girls. (Laughter)

McLaughlin: We thoroughly had a lovely time in paleontology in the geology department with Dr. Merriam. I dropped Latin because it wasn't as well done here as it was at home. And I took some botany, too. I learned a lot about Luther Burbank.

Baum: What did you learn about him?

McLaughlin: The whole system of crossing. The production of new species was terribly interesting. And in pedagogy we did enjoy Ernest Carroll Moore.

McLaughlin: Gilman was president of the University of California and helped choose so many of these fine old faculty people. He left here and eventually, while he didn't establish Johns Hopkins, he was president of Johns Hopkins.

I majored in English and philosophy under Howison [Professor George H. Howison, Department of Philosophy], who trained a great many of the philosophers in the United States.

Baum: Who were some of the teachers that you recall particularly as having influenced you?

McLaughlin: And whom I particularly enjoyed? Bradley in English. A man by the name of Tommy Bacon in the history department. He was generally interesting in European history. Another man whose face I can see perfectly well but I've forgotten his name. I thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Stratton in the Philosophy Department. Dr. George Stratton was great. We sat in Psychology I, twelve students... That was fun. Stratton was a great influence on me.

You had to keep up your grades. You asked me if I had any difficulty. My grades were good. I never thought about it. My grades were probably sent over here before I was to come.

Baum: I guess your grades came from your high school. You didn't have to take an entrance examination?

McLaughlin: No, they came from the high school. Miss West had a very good record when it came to her college people.

Baum: What years did you attend Cal?

McLaughlin: I graduated in 1902.

Baum: And did you go straight through?

McLaughlin: Oh yes.

Baum: Then that would be 1898 to 1902.

McLaughlin: We started in with five hundred students, I think. We graduated about three hundred and fifty. I missed out by not having some of the great teachers. I didn't have Le Conte, the geologist.

Baum: Did you intend to teach? Or was that something that came later?

McLaughlin: Every woman got her teacher's certificate. I got a teacher's certificate. You did it in four years then. You took Pedagogy. And the rest was along with your major. In spite of the fact that my mother was a person with a lot more judgment than most women of her age, when I was offered a chance to fill in by some friends of mine who were teaching up in Washington--somebody had gotten sick in this school and they needed somebody to finish out, they telegraphed and offered me this position--and my mother said, "Why, you can't take a position. You'll take it away from some girl that needs it." (Laughter) She wouldn't let me go.

Baum: It would be a social blow for her daughter to work?

McLaughlin: Oh no, that didn't bother her. It was just her conscience. She felt that there were girls that had to teach. And there weren't very many jobs. And I had no right to take one.

Baum: Didn't they have the feeling that they do now, that you have such a shortage of teachers and all these poor students with no adequate teaching? (Laughter)

McLaughlin: It was an entirely different philosophy. Not every girl takes a job, you and I know that. But it wasn't done then. This isn't social prestige. She didn't think she had any right to allow me to do it. It seems awfully funny when you look back at it.

Professor Frederick Jackson Turner

Baum: After you were graduated from the University, I think you mentioned that you did attend summer sessions.

McLaughlin: In the second year, 1904, I started summer session because my father felt that I had to be in San Francisco and I couldn't go off on another Sierra Club trip. My sister was in Europe. I registered for summer session and expected to just ~~add it~~ audit. But then in the midst of it my father became ill. He had an infected leg and that meant a lot of waiting and so forth. So I just dropped out of those classes. And I never came to summer school again for a long, long time. But I was fortunate enough to have Professor Frederick Jackson Turner and a couple of other good people, too, that summer.

Professor Turner gave us a history of the wanderings of the pioneer American families, and Dr. McLaughlin's family was so typical. His grandfather and grandmother were married in North Carolina and had two children. They started west and camped on the Cumberland Gap. They went down into Kentucky and Tennessee where he stopped being a minister and became a lawyer. Then they went to Missouri. Wherever he went, he started a school. He went from Missouri to Louisiana and then he came out here. Whether that was the lure of the West, or what, I don't know, but that is a typical Frederick Jackson Turner story. Turner was simply a fascinating lecturer.

Brewer: So you commuted from San Francisco?

McLaughlin: Oh yes. The ferry took forever. When I was in college I lived here in Berkeley, but this particular summer I came over from San Francisco.

Baum: Why did you take Turner's course?

McLaughlin: Well, I was an English and philosophy major. But I looked over the catalog. Here was Turner with

McLaughlin: this new theory about the influence of the Western frontier. He was terribly interesting. The shame is that those courses couldn't have been tape recorded then. His thinking had so much influence on other historical writers.

Baum: Can you tell us more about the course?

McLaughlin: Well, it was in North Hall. We were in one of those amphitheater affairs. We looked at him from a slant.

Baum: Did the students like him, was he popular?

McLaughlin: Oh my, yes. He was most attractive. There was a most attractive girl in the class and he and she had the most delightful, friendly flirtation, but it was all in fun. He was married by that time, it was just a jovial thing we all watched.

Baum: Did you have to do a lot of homework for those summer courses?

McLaughlin: I registered for that course and then my father became very ill for a short time. I thought I would have to drop out completely so before it was too late I wiped it off my record.

Baum: Did they expect much homework from students then?

McLaughlin: The way you study in college now was exactly the way you studied then, if you were really interested. I can't see that college demands much more now, if you were conscientious.

But in Turner's course, there was so little material collected then. I don't remember that we were assigned reading materials, or had to do research. But it was an exciting experience to have this man come along with his theories. He gave a guidance in thinking. We understood how the country was settled.

Classmates

Baum: I want to ask you about your classmates. Were any of your classmates people that stand out in your memory?

McLaughlin: I think the most interesting man in our class was John Eshleman.

Baum: He was class of 1902?

McLaughlin: Yes. He had done all sorts of work, among others, a cook in a railroad or lumber camp. But he was an adult when he came to college.

Baum: Do you mean in years or in maturity? Or both?

McLaughlin: In maturity. I haven't any idea how much older he was. It wouldn't be many years. But in maturity he was older. And he could do all sorts of activities on campus and yet keep his work at a very high standard.

Baum: Did you take any classes with Eshleman?

McLaughlin: Yes. He was in the philosophy courses I took for years.

Baum: What kind of a student was he? Did he participate a lot?

McLaughlin: Oh yes. Whatever he did, he did the whole thing. There was no ego. He was not a prima donna. He was a creative, participating person.

Of course, there was Monroe Deutsch. He was concentrating on Latin. Monroe was a beautiful person.

A very successful man now is Tadini Bacigalupi. He was Charles Elkus' partner--lawyers in San Francisco. And I think people would say he's a very well known person. For the moment that's all the men I can think of that were distinguished. They were all good students--those three. And Eshleman's life, of course, you know.

McLaughlin: Of the women, the woman who was distinguished mainly for her scholarship and has been through her lifetime, was Helen Cooper, Mrs. W.W. Douglas, who's done very fine work in international relations ever since--a really distinguished scholar.

Baum: Could you tell that at the time?

McLaughlin: Oh yes.

Baum: Was she in history in college?

McLaughlin: I don't know what she was in. She also was an adult and a very fine scholar. I think she was the most distinguished scholar in the class.

Baum: Could you tell that Eshleman was suffering from ill health at that time?

McLaughlin: No. He was terribly active. And he showed no necessity of protecting himself.

Baum: Was he popular with the students?

McLaughlin: I think he was president of the Associated Students. He was a campus leader.

Baum: And how about Helen Cooper?

McLaughlin: I think Helen was a student. I don't remember any women who really stood out particularly that were in that class at that time. She was a hard worker. Most of the girls in the class, in fact I should say all, were interested in the work and really studied. They wouldn't have come to college for any other reason. There were one or two belles in college, but not many.

Baum: What was Monroe Deutsch like as a boy?

McLaughlin: Just as he was when he grew up, very fine, gentle, knew he was a student, and a very sincere scholar.

Lucy Ward Stebbins, Dean of Women

Baum: I wonder what you could tell me about Lucy Stebbins and her subsequent career, and also I think she was active in founding the Women's Faculty Club.

McLaughlin: She was. By her subsequent career do you mean when she retired?

Baum: No, when she became dean of women. You mentioned you'd gone to school with her and you'd gone to church with her.

McLaughlin: She went to Radcliffe. I don't know whether she had an interval period after she left Radcliffe before she came out here. I don't know whether Miss Sprague brought her out here or whether it was President Wheeler who brought her out here. (Muriel Ransom could answer any questions of that kind. Miss Muriel Ransom who lives on Arch Street here in Berkeley and the telephone is under the name of Bullis. She is fanatically devoted to Lucy. And Margaret Murdock's father was superintendent of the Unitarian Sunday school over the years; actually he was like an assistant minister. He was a well known printer but he contributed that. He's written a book on his association with Dr. Stebbins. In fact Lucy left Margaret a very comfortable amount when she died. The families were very close and I think Margaret could tell you about Miss Stebbins.)

Baum: What did Miss Stebbins' income come from? Her father couldn't have made much as a Unitarian minister.

McLaughlin: A friend of her mother's left Lucy a fortune. The woman was very devoted to her mother and left Lucy a substantial income. I had been told, also, that one of Dr. Stebbins' devoted parishioners had left him some land on which oil was discovered. I never heard that mentioned in modern years. I do know that there was this friend of Mrs. Stebbins. And there was a Maine connection somewhere, too. This woman was a Pierce. She was a relative of Mrs. E.E.

McLaughlin: Brownell's, an aunt or something. But she never lived out here and she left Lucy a very fine fortune. She had everything she could ever wish for. She never lived elaborately but she lived very well and she shared what she had.

Baum: Did Miss Stebbins take any graduate work?

McLaughlin: Miss Stebbins never took anything beyond her first degree. Why she didn't go further officially toward degrees I haven't any idea because she was a pure intellectual. Her most outstanding quality was the serenity of her judgment, which was the result of a very careful study of everything and arriving at a very thoughtful conclusion.

Baum: Had she shown this quality as a young girl in school?

McLaughlin: To my mind she just came full blown into the world. She had a tremendous capacity for absorbing knowledge. She had to have Greek to go to Radcliffe and she just took it on the side.

Baum: Was she the only Stebbins child?

McLaughlin: No, she had a step-brother, Roderick Stebbins, who became a minister in Milton, Massachusetts. He was older. His wife and Lucy had gone to college together. His wife was very devoted to Lucy. She's still alive I think. Lucy's own brother was Horatio, who became a professor down at Stanford. I don't know what he was professor of. To my mind, however, he never had Lucy's qualities.

She approached each problem with a very dispassionate judgment and took great care and had a really fine balanced judgment. She was never swayed by any intellectual interest that was more or less ephemeral and she utterly ignored any of the cliches that develop out of any intellectual excitement. She approached a problem with complete independence. Her deafness I thought became a great asset because she was utterly unaffected by the verbiage of the

McLaughlin: intellectual problems of her time. It was very interesting the way she handled it.

Now, she handled the problems of the Dean's Office with great understanding. She was probably a very shy person, but she gave the impression of being aloof. Recognizing this, as soon as possible, she took on Mrs. Mary Roberta Davidson as her assistant to take charge of the average girl. She kept the problem cases for herself. And there never was any excitement about the way she solved them. She had rare judgment. Underneath it all she was a very warm individual and a wonderful friend.

Baum: Were the girls a little afraid of her?

McLaughlin: I don't know that they were afraid of her, but they didn't turn to her as they would to Mrs. Davidson. She realized that and that's why she put so many of the average girls on Mrs. Davidson's shoulders. I never knew anything about the problems that came to her. I suppose there were some very, very serious ones.

Baum: So she used Mrs. Davidson for the warmth and so on.

McLaughlin: Yes, she used Mrs. Davidson for the average girl. And Mrs. Davidson had the ability--the people coming into the office, boys and girls, were perfectly devoted to her. She could very quietly tell them what was necessary and they'd take it and appreciate it. Once, when my daughter was in college, at luncheon with Mrs. Davidson, my daughter said, "My children are never going to college, it's just a waste." She was just full of odds and ends. Bobby just looked at her and in a few words she just straightened her out. As we walked out Jean said, "Isn't it too bad there are not more people like Bobby. She said exactly what she meant and it was good for me." (Laughter)

Baum: Bobby was her nickname, I see, from Roberta.

McLaughlin: Yes. She was Bobby to everybody. I had known Bobby from the time she was in college.

McLaughlin: Ada Comstock, when she was president of Radcliffe, I knew from the Institute of Pacific Relations. She had been dean of women at Smith and at Minnesota. She said, "Lucy Stebbins has always been acknowledged as the greatest dean of women in the United States." I was at Michigan with one of my nieces and I saw Dean Alice Lloyd, who was their dean of women. I went to her for some advice on counseling. I happened to be on a committee for the Alumni Association. And she said, "Ive written something for the National Education Association. I want to know what Miss Stebbins and what Miss Yost [Mary Yost, for many years dean of women at Stanford. H.B.] feel about the way deans of women are now being treated. While I'm here they will make no change."

None of them liked a dean of students with a dean of men and a dean of women under them. They wanted the dean of women to be free--no blockage between them and the administrative office. They felt that the problems of women were quite different and that they should be handled accordingly. They felt very bitterly about them at that time, the modern way of having deans of students. I think that this idea was justified in this situation. It was very simple to look on the chain of command to know where the trouble was.

Baum: You mean this last flare-up at Cal? [F.S.M., student sit-in at Sproul Hall]

McLaughlin: Yes. Between the dean of students, Dean Towle, and the professor who was the vice-chancellor. And any of us who knew anything about Sherriffs [Professor Alex Sheriffs - Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs] knew what we thought of him. He forced her to put that order out. She came out in the <u>New York Times</u> interview with that. The University did not do her the courtesy of asking for an interview.

Baum: They kept that information about Sheriffs under wraps for a long time and then they just removed him as vice-chancellor.

McLaughlin: He was just hiding behind a woman's skirts for as many months as he could. Then they put him out. Now I understand this assistant chancellor was put in when Chancellor Seaborg was put in. He hadn't been in touch with very many things. But they were all supposed to be rotating. Sheriffs had that job all that time. I never knew anybody who had any respect for him. There may have been some people that did.

Baum: In this situation this wouldn't have made any difference.

McLaughlin: I think it would. If there hadn't been a vice-chancellor, Dean Towle would have been in a position to give Chancellor Strong his information. It's accepted, whether this is true or not, that he trusted Sheriffs' judgment. All I know is what I've been told by people who really care about the University. I'm not trying to get anybody into trouble.

The question of the position of deans was one of Miss Stebbins' great concerns after she had retired. The last time I saw her she said, "Emma, I'm happy Dean Towle has made her condition and she will carry on this office as it should be carried on." When Dean Yost did die she was very unhappy about the situation at Stanford. They felt very deeply on this.

Baum: So the big issue at that time was that the dean of women was degraded. How did you know Mrs. Davidson?

McLaughlin: I had graduated some time when she came to college. But her father was a man in agriculture in Northern California, Mr. Blossom of Red Bluff. While my father didn't know him intimately at all, he had great respect for him. Mrs. Davidson, in order to go to high school, came down to San Francisco. So she knew a lot of people that I knew. She was a Kappa--uh sorority.

Women's Faculty Club

McLaughlin: You asked about Miss Stebbins and the Women's Faculty Club. She was still dean and I don't know whether I had a note from her or what happened but she explained her attitude about the necessity of that club. She said she felt that the faculty women and women doing constructive work for the University--leaders--should have a place of their own which would strengthen them and their point of view in meeting the world. And she wanted some of us to join that club because she felt that we should give backing to the women that were on the faculty or in the administration here. I think she was always president and she was probably chairman of the committee. But there also was an active committee that worked with her. The only one that I remember at the present time was Alicia Mosgrove and she's gone. Alicia, at that time, was living over here. Mrs. Katherine Hooker was living over here. And she worked very hard for us.

Baum: Is that her married name?

McLaughlin: Alicia Mosgrove lived with this very interesting and wealthy woman, Mrs. Hooker. Her daughter was Dr. Marian Hooker. She was a very wealthy woman. She had this very beautiful house in San Francisco [Designed by Bruce Porter, San Francisco artist, architect, and man of letters; Italian in style and furnishings. H.B.], and when the depression came it was obvious that whomever had handled her affairs after her husband died had not been very bright. So she changed her method of living and lived very simply in order to get the estate put back and strengthened. Jack Neylan did that.

Baum: He handled her affairs.

McLaughlin: He came in after the depression and straightened it all out. The first thing she did was to sell her beautiful house and that cleared a great many of the debts. It was a very beautiful house.

Baum: So Neylan was a good property manager.

McLaughlin: He did wonders for that estate. I think he handled it to the end of his life. Dr. Hooker is still alive, although she's senile. That's the daughter. [Dr. Marian Hooker died subsequent to this interview.]

There was an active committee here in Berkeley that worked with Miss Stebbins on the Club.

Baum: Did the women before that have any kind of association where they could meet?

McLaughlin: Not as far as I know.

Baum: And they were excluded from the Men's Faculty Club?

McLaughlin: I don't know that they were. That I don't know.

Baum: I think they can go in the Men's Faculty Club now through their membership in the Women's.

McLaughlin: Either way, and you can belong to the Men's Faculty Club. I think some of the women prefer it. The question is whether the Women's Faculty Club gives the women a solid background that Miss Stebbins thought it could and should, whether that still is existent or not. Part of the trouble is that there are so few appointments of women in the University. One of the men that I took a course from this summer, an Englishman, an expert on the Near East, said he'd never been at a University anywhere near this size and found so few women. This has been well known for years.

Baum: Was this a concern of Miss Stebbins' at the time she was here?

McLaughlin: I think she always felt that. And certain other women did, too.

This is true. There are very few women on the faculty. It's quite interesting that two women came this summer that were going to be here for a year. I wondered if Chancellor Meyerson has done it just to see how it works out. I haven't the slightest idea of anything

McLaughlin: about it. Two of them appeared and were living at the Women's Faculty Club for a few months. One is going to be here for two semesters.

Baum: There are women on the faculty. However, I think it's much harder for a woman comparable to a man to get the same position.

McLaughlin: I don't think it's ever occurred to the heads of the departments to see that women are appointed. Personally I think the women should combine and do a good deal. But they haven't.

Miss Stebbins was president of the Women's Faculty Club from the time she retired from the University. The director was that great friend of hers, Miss Ransom who did an exquisite job of making the place very attractive.

Baum: Did Miss Stebbins feel the Women's Faculty Club did what she wanted it to?

McLaughlin: That I can't tell you. As long as Miss Ransom managed the very dainty and delicious meals she did, Miss Stebbins was very pleased. Miss Ransom couldn't continue doing this because it cost too much. I would say that it's a wonderful place to send the women who are visiting. It's a very nice place for foreign women to stay.

But unfortunately the heads of departments seldom tell the women about it when they accept somebody new. Women in the University are not very much regarded.

Some Outstanding Women

Jessica Peixotto

Baum: Since we're on women, I was wondering about Jessica Peixotto. She was one of the women who was on the faculty.

McLaughlin: Miss Peixotto belonged to a family of Spanish Jews. What is superior in the Spanish Jew I can't tell you. But her family were San Francisco people and she was very much admired. I think she was the second woman to get her Ph.D. here. The first one was Miss Shinn, who was a psychologist for children. Miss Peixotto was distinguished in appearance and very careful of it. She had a very fine mind. She was made the head of the Department of Social Welfare.* And she developed a great many of the modern social workers. She had the universal respect--profound respect--for her handling of the situation. People were very proud of their education under her. And they were very loyal to her. There was just that something about her. She gave the impression of a handsome, sophisticated intellectual. She lent herself very much to many fine works in the community.

Baum: I know she was active in many community works.

McLaughlin: I think my recollection is correct that--(Hiram Johnson appointed some very fine women, you know)--she was on the State Board of Charities and Corrections. She was a leader in social work.

Baum: Some of these ladies that were so active were a little hard to get along with. Was Miss Peixotto?

McLaughlin: I don't think she was. She held a very unusual place in the community. People seldom disputed any of her activities. She was fine to a great many people. For instance, she took, in the process of her work in the Department of Social Welfare or the State Department, I know of one girl who was an orphan under the Salvation Army, and she must have placed her in the proper home. She gave her her education. It was not only that she was a theoretical person, she did some very fine things. Unfortunately her brothers were pretentious with a thin deck.

Baum: Were they in San Francisco?

McLaughlin: One of them, I think, managed the Boys' Club. I've forgotten what the other brother did. [Ernest Peixotto, an artist. H.B.]

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*Jessica Peixotto taught social welfare type courses in the Dept. of Economics from 1904-1912. In 1912 the Dept. of Economics established a Curriculum of Social Economics which included

McLaughlin: But she was really a great person. And she knew how to be a great person. She was very handsome, dressed very nicely. She had all the qualities of a smart Jewish woman plus an honest-to-goodness fine intellect.

Baum: There must have been some pretty fine ladies around then. Did you know Miss Gregg very well?

McLaughlin: No, I didn't know her at all. I met her, that's all. She had warm admiration.

Barbara Nachtrieb Armstrong

Baum: I want to finish up on some important women connected with the University. I have Barbara Armstrong.

McLaughlin: Now, I don't believe that I can do Barbara Nachtrieb Armstrong justice because I don't know her well, and apparently she does not like me which is all right but I can tell you what I do know about her.

Baum: She is always mentioned in connection with the legal aspects of social welfare.

McLaughlin: She has made a real place for herself on the faculty at Berkeley. There is no doubt about that.

Baum: Was she in the League of Women Voters or did she work with women's organizations or was she too busy as a faculty member?

McLaughlin: I don't know exactly if she worked for the League. I only know her to be a person that the League felt free to consult. Now whether the Berkeley League or the State League found it possible to get some service from her, I don't know. I think her college work kept her extremely busy.

Dr. Peixotto's courses. In 1927 instruction was formalized into a Curriculum of Social Service leading to a graduate certificate in social service. In 1939 the new Dept. of Social Welfare was established, and this became the graduate, professional School of Social Welfare in 1944. WKB

McLaughlin: Her scholarship is backed by her understanding that scholarship alone is not enough to really get progress in the community; she has always been a great liberal. She has been a very healthy thing for the community.

Emily Huntington

Baum: You mentioned Miss Emily Huntington, did she work with the League? I think of her mainly in connection with the Heller Committee. That was consumer economics, wasn't it?

McLaughlin: Yes, women in industry.

Baum: Do you know what she is doing now since she retired?

McLaughlin: She has tremendous interest in the work that she has always done; I guess she still has an office at the University.

She has done a good deal of intelligent traveling. I would say that she was having a most intelligent leisure. She is enjoying her home and her garden and very fine reading; she has worked a little bit with the World Affairs Council in their study groups. She is keeping up with the world and the problems of the world. She is awfully well read. There was a time when her housemate was very ill and this took a great deal of her time. Dorothy Williams who was a very delightful, brilliant person, died. Then she telephoned me last night, that someone who had been very kind to Mrs. Douglas, had been taking care of her.

You see, I had known Emily Huntington slightly as a girl and had a very cordial personal relationship. Then Dorothy Williams

McLaughlin: who had been the Assistant United States District Attorney for this district, had to retire because of illness. She came into the World Affairs Council and spent a good deal of time with us. Emily came along too.

They lived together. They were house companions. Dorothy was really remarkable. She worked with us closely; then she also took the Berkeley League and worked with it quite heavily. In other words, I had known Emily for years through her friends rather than through any work that she had done.

Baum: Then I always do think of her in consumer economics. Whenever there was a problem, she would write something on that.

McLaughlin: She did very fine work on that Heller Committee. She was in charge of the research and people have greatly respected her for what she has done.

Mrs. Ernestine Wollenberg Black

Now Barbara Nachtrieb, the only thing that I can tell you about that, I remember with great interest the fight on public health. Chester Rowell was on that committee. Mrs. Ernestine Black Ball. She was, I think, secretary of the committee. Mrs. Black was a very brilliant newspaper woman. She was a Wollenberg. She and Miss Nachtrieb worked for... I am trying to think what they called it. I suppose that the modern word for it is Medicare.

Baum: Medical care for the indigent, is that it?

McLaughlin: Yes, she and Ernestine and Mr. Rowell devoted themselves to the effort. Now, I think that it must have been on a referendum, and they were defeated.

McLaughlin: I can remember their hard work and the way that they had everyone tagged, their interest in this. Then, of course, the Christian Scientists made it awfully hard on them. I only knew this through Ernestine Black. (She was Ernestine Wollenberg Black. Then she married a man by the name of Ball. I have forgotten which name she uses. She was divorced from him. I don't know if she went back to Black or not.)

Baum: I always hear of her as Ernestine Black.

McLaughlin: She was a wonderful person. She was a newspaper woman of such standing that if she did not believe, if she were given an assignment by The Examiner and she did not believe in it, then she did not have to do it. Her sister too, Lucille Wollenberg, who never married, was equally valuable in the community. They were both the kind of people that if they were with conservatives, they would take the liberal point of view. If they were with radicals, they would take the conservative point of view. They were, both of them but Ernestine particularly, extremely interesting and fine people.

Baum: Was that because they liked to argue or because they preferred the middle of the road?

McLaughlin: I think they always liked to bring out both points of view. I think that Ernestine Black was the paid secretary for this particular committee. I think that must have been a public committee because I think that was one of the things that Miss Katharine Felton was deeply interested in. It may possibly have come out from the Associated Charities, I am not sure.

Baum: I think of Miss Felton as wanting things to remain under private administration rather than governmental.

McLaughlin: Oh no. Miss Felton had the, I consider, greatest will to power that I have ever known. When I say this, I am not saying what the average person felt about her. If you were part of her entourage, you had to think that she was perfect. She had committees with very fine people working

McLaughlin: with her. Among them I could mention Charley Elkus who had worked on various bills for the legislature with regard to children. Miss Felton worked very hard for these. Of course, she was a lawyer as well as a social worker. She had so many devoted advocates. She really did a great deal in the community for the children. That would be perfectly natural for her to work on this problem of medicare for the indigent because the problem was too big for any budget that she could handle. She was the type that if a bill went through, she would take care that the person who was appointed to do the work would be someone who would listen to her. When she reached the point where the problem was too big money-wise and was too universally recognized as a state problem or a national problem, she would arrange a committee to work on it. I can't tell you where this health thing came from. I imagine that it came from her.

Comments on University Administration

Baum: One of the things that I wanted to ask you was about the University of California. I believe that you have been closely affiliated with the University here and have known the Sprouls during the years of the Sproul administration.

McLaughlin: Dr. Sproul was president during the great expansion of the University. This includes numbers of students, faculties, service of the University to the community.

Baum: Numbers of campuses.

McLaughlin: Yes, expansion of the University in every direction. For instance, I understood from Miss Robb, his secretary, that the thing Dr. Sproul felt was his biggest achievement was the development of nuclear science. Ernest Lawrence came to work here and the other universities had been exceedingly anxious to get him. Our equipment

McLaughlin: was unsatisfactory. He was a big man. He needed more. Mr. Sproul told me this part himself. He said, "I just put on my hat in sheer desperation and went over to Mr. Crocker and explained the situation. That we had this opportunity of keeping this really great scientist or losing him due to the lack of equipment." I don't know if he asked him for $100,000 or $150,000 at one fell swoop.

I happened to mention this to Mrs. [Helen Crocker] Russell once and she said, "Yes, my father told us that Sproul had come to him and asked him for a sum which seemed large at that time. He said, 'I did not know what he was talking about. I knew that Sproul knew what he was talking about, and I knew that he knew the man that he wanted it for, knew what he was talking about, so I gave him the money.'"

Baum: That indicates the confidence the business community had in his judgment.

McLaughlin: That is a good story straight from the horse's mouth. From my own standpoint I have always had to reason from what I knew. When we started in the Institute of Pacific Relations, we felt a great necessity was a microfilm of all the books which would give a scholar a chance to know where the books on the Pacific were. We tried our best to get that done. Unfortunately, Ray Lyman Wilbur did not agree with me and it was never done. Then the Second World War came along so quickly at any rate. The United States population now no longer had to have it called to their attention that their interests were clearly in the Pacific area.

Now, the library here at Berkeley, when we started about 1927 or 1930, could not have been in a more pathetic condition with regard to the Pacific area. There was $5,000 a year income from some endowment given for books on the Pacific which had not been used for several years. There was no department on the Pacific. Emeritus Dr. Williams, who had written fine books on China, had come home from the First World War and the Versailles Conference an utterly discouraged man because he felt that the Chinese had been so badly defeated. His house was burned

McLaughlin: down with his last manuscript of which he had no copy to go on. We knew that there were some books in the basement of the library which had come over at the time of the Boxer Rebellion. We were told that they were being eaten up by bookworms. We could get nowhere with the library here about the books. Finally, Dr. Alsberg, who was the head of the food department at Stanford, found someone over here who rescued those books. I give this as typical.

Look at the situation now. There is a whole wing that is devoted to Asia. You have experts of every country handling the material that is coming in. Dr. Brown told me that after the Second World War when he went to Japan he asked for $10,000 for material. Dr. Sproul told him that he had not asked for enough and gave him more. I think this is a good way to have a specific example of progress.

Baum: Did Dr. Sproul seem interested in this in the 1930's? Or was it World War II that woke him up along with everyone else?

McLaughlin: No, before World War II he was chairman of the Institute of Pacific Relations.

Baum: You think this is what educated him?

McLaughlin: It was the combination of things. This was done in his time. Now you can take other departments in the same way, but I am only talking about the ones that I happen to know about. The number of people here in the political science department who are experts on the situation in Asia, southeast Asia and northeast Asia, they have real experts here. Dr. Lynn White told me that he sent his son here since the boy wanted to take his graduate work on China. He wanted him to come here because he thought that he had the best chance.

As I look on people whom Sproul appointed during my time, I can have a great admiration for him. Surely the deans of women were as distinguished as anyone in the United States. This was true right up until the end.

McLaughlin: I think he had great power over people, over a crowd. I have seen him after the unhappy situation with regard to the loyalty oaths stand up before a crowd that was critical and angry. By the time he was finished, they were all cheering for him. He had the kind of, not just personality but belief in what he was doing that was convincing. Of course, he was beautifully aided by his wife who was intelligent and warmly human. She had a great knack with people, just tremendous.

I have no doubt that there are an infinite number of things in the various departments that I could mention. The University was built up though and its departments were adequate; some were stronger than others maybe. In the meantime he did choose a good faculty. As the number of students increased, he seemed to be able to gather a faculty that was adequate.

Baum: Do you think much of this was due to him personally, or was it due to the reputation of the University and the faculty already? Of course, they go hand in hand, I'm sure.

McLaughlin: Well, he chose the faculty. And I will say when he started the loyalty oath and found that he was wrong, he said so, which shows a greatness, I think. To analyze the qualities that make a man who can stand before a group and dominate them and convince them--the various threads in his character that make that combination are not easy to analyze, but he has them.

Baum: You mentioned that you visited with the Sprouls.

McLaughlin: I was invited there occasionally as different people in the University were, alumni were. They kept very close to the people, to the alumni. They took their job seriously. They were understanding human beings, both Bob and Ida Sproul. I would not say that I had any intimacy with Dr. Sproul, but we could come over and talk to him.

Baum: He was reachable, you mean?

McLaughlin: I would not say that I had any intimacy with him, but if you had a subject that he was interested in that needed attention, you could reach him and get an audience. He was very intelligent about what was necessary for the community too and the University's connections with it.

Baum: I have heard people complain that they could not get to President Sproul because of Miss [Agnes] Robb. Did you bump into that or was that just some people?

McLaughlin: Miss Robb was typical of secretaries. He was president of the Institute of Pacific Relations and there was an acute matter one time. She was protecting him at a very crucial time because he was very busy with something else. I happened to make it my business to find out what hotel he was in so I sent him a personal telegram and he got it. This I never quarreled with because I feel that is why men like that have secretaries. But some people felt that Miss Robb might have had a broader view of what his interests were. This may be true, but I still say that there were times when a man under his strain had to be protected. You find it with every busy person.

Baum: Did you know Miss Robb? Was she pleasant to deal with?

McLaughlin: Yes. I have given you one instance. She did not think that the Institute of Pacific Relations was as important as what he had to do that day with the Regents undoubtedly, and I had to have an answer. That was different.

Baum: I guess the person who complained the most about Miss Robb was Regent John Francis Neylan.

McLaughlin: Jack Neylan did not like to be bothered with errands. You just have to analyze, was she a good secretary. I served on a council with regard to advising counselling in the University of California. They did not have it, and they found it was effective with the army when they were here. I was chairman of the committee and made a report to the alumni council about it. I said one of the great assets on this committee

McLaughlin: is so-and-so from southern California who just walks in as a great friend of Miss Robb's so he should make the report. The alumni council was not the most important thing. We wanted to get the report in, and this man was an old friend of the Sprouls. He just walked into the office which I could not do and got the report in. Any very busy person has a secretary who avoids waste of time. That is what she is there for.

Neylan was never accustomed to being stopped by anybody. He has persecuted Mr. Sproul. Miss Robb probably felt that Mr. Sproul did not need any more persecution. Neylan could be brutal. There is always that when people are impatient. Many a secretary is unpopular. She protected him and he kept her for years so he must have felt it was all right.

Baum: She is still his secretary.

McLaughlin: Yes, now that she is not working under such tension, she is just a delightful person. She has a warm human understanding and interest. She worked awfully hard and was devoted. I thought it was an awfully good job.

I think that he was a great president. He made some tragic mistakes like the loyalty oath. This is human though. There never was a time when he could not meet the Alumni Association, and he would make them go away with the feeling that they belonged to a great University. He did it without resorting to unpleasant sentimentality. He deeply felt that it was a great University and he contributed that thought to the people surrounding him. When you stop to think how this place grew and what they got from the legislature, it is a sort of a miracle.

Baum: I think he was very good with the legislature.

McLaughlin: Jim Corley, yes. Sproul himself was good with the legislature. Then Corley who worked under him apparently was a wonder with the legislature. I did say to Mr. Sproul once, "When I look at that budget..." He said, "Well, if it frightens you, it frightens me too!" You can see the way the budget has grown.

CHAPTER III

A DOCTOR'S WIFE IN SAN FRANCISCO

Marriage to Dr. Alfred McLaughlin, 1904

Baum: You were saying that your sister went to Europe and so you had to stay home with your mother. I know that's a common statement. I've heard it from other ladies of that era, someone stayed home with their mother. What did you do for your mother? I don't understand why your mother needed a grown daughter there.

McLaughlin: I don't think she did. But my father felt that there were two of us and one of us ought to be home. I suppose probably they enjoyed us, too. The household was lonely without either one of us in it. He said, "Your sister's away, you stay home this summer."

Baum: They didn't need you to help with the household I don't suppose.

McLaughlin: All I did was take care of my own room.

Baum: It wasn't like keeping up the farm.

McLaughlin: No. (Laughter) It was a mental attitude more than anything else.

Baum: So 1904 was the year that you stayed home with your mother and your sister went to Europe.

McLaughlin: Yes. And I ended up by getting married. My husband was a physician. And my father had this infected leg. That's how we met.

Baum: He came to attend your father?

McLaughlin: Yes.

Baum: How did you get to know your husband personally? Was he invited over to dinner? Did he ask you out? Was that done? How did a young lady and gentleman find out they liked each other?

McLaughlin: He had a heavy practice at the time. He was terribly busy. But he would take me to the theater. I remember he wanted me to go to a restaurant afterwards. You see, being older it never occurred to him that--it was a place--restaurant--where there was wine and liquor. He wanted me to go there. And I said, "Good heavens, I can't go there. My father and mother wouldn't allow me to go to a place like that." He was just dumbfounded when he found this out. (Laughter)

Baum: How old were you?

McLaughlin: I was twenty-four.

Baum: So that's not so young.

McLaughlin: Ladies did not do that sort of thing.

Baum: I see. At no age.

McLaughlin: Only when you're accompanied by your husband.

Baum: He could invite you to the theater or some place like that.

McLaughlin: Yes.

Baum: Then you were married in 1904. And was this a great fol-de-rol?

McLaughlin: No, it was very very simple. My sister was in Europe and was not coming home for another six months. And there was a good deal of writing back and forth. I had been a bridesmaid six times before this. (Laughter) And my sister wasn't home. I had a wedding dress from the usual place. And I had the wedding veil. But there was no one there but the family. My

McLaughlin: husband's sisters and brothers and our family. The thing I best remember about it was my father's eyes filled with tears. It wasn't a big wedding. I laugh whenever I think of my mother who was thrifty spending all that money on that white dress. But I guess she thought it was just fair that every girl should have a wedding dress.

Dr. Alfred McLaughlin and his Family

Baum: What had been your husband's family background?

McLaughlin: He was born on a vineyard in Sonoma.

Baum: He was a native Californian?

McLaughlin: Oh yes. It's extraordinary because divorce wasn't usual in those days, particularly for a person as deeply involved in religion as his mother was. She'd been a widow and she was living on this vineyard. It was the house that her father had built when he came to California when gold was discovered. The whole story of his family is so typical of what Turner said about the treks West. He married this girl from North Carolina.

Baum: This is your husband's grandfather?

McLaughlin: Yes. Judge Shattuck went over the mountains from North Carolina to Kentucky. Then he became a lawyer. He went into Tennessee, then Kentucky, then Missouri. Always a judge and he always started a school wherever he was. Finally he went to Louisiana when gold was discovered. And he came out here with his two sons and two slaves. He freed the slaves. And he arranged for this house for the family out in Sonoma. So he really raised Dr. McLaughlin. They had a beautiful time until the pests came in and ruined the vineyard. That was phylloxera. In the '90s it ruined all those early vineyards.

McLaughlin: Grandfather, in order to make the boys work, had bought some more land and put a mortgage on it. So my husband's mother lost everything. This was when Dr. McLaughlin was prepared to come down and go to medical school.

Baum: I don't quite follow this. Your husband's grandfather set up the house in Sonoma. And his mother lived there.

McLaughlin: Yes, she took it over. Because during the Civil War Judge Shattuck wouldn't take the oath of allegiance.

Baum: That was his grandfather?

McLaughlin: Yes. David Alcutt Shattuck. He fought the Vigilantes. He considered their defiance of the law an outrage. The two first men that were arrested, he went to court and had them freed. He went to Mexico and stayed there during the war. Then he came back and lived with this family.

Dr. McLaughlin's father had come to California with the Kearney troop that came to California. His name isn't in the book on Kearney and the only way we can ever be sure of this is to take a copy of a picture that I have of his regimentals and send it back to Washington to be verified. He and his wife were divorced and then he came down and went to Tholan Medical College and graduated in 1875.

Baum: So the McLaughlin father had come with Kearney. And the Shattuck grandfather had come in the Gold Rush.

McLaughlin: There was a tremendous call to California during that time.

Baum: Oh yes. And then the McLaughlin father became a doctor.

McLaughlin: My husband always felt that his father had probably run away from a monastery. No one ever knew about his past. But he had a classical education quite different from the average person at that time. He spoke all modern languages and was versed in Latin and Greek, too. So that he'd

McLaughlin: had a much more intensive education than the average man who came in '45.

Baum: He was Catholic?

McLaughlin: Oh yes, he was a Catholic. Dr. McLaughlin wasn't but his father was a Catholic.

Baum: And his father and mother were divorced. That was extraordinary. And your husband stayed with his mother on the Sonoma vineyard.

McLaughlin: Yes. He said it was the most perfect life any boy could have had.

Baum: Did he see his father?

McLaughlin: Not very much.

Baum: His father became a doctor.

McLaughlin: Yes. Then Dr. McLaughlin, when they lost everything, came down to San Francisco and went to work in the license clerk's office and made enough money to put himself through college. Then the bank failed. So then he went without any money to college. That was hard work in those days.

Baum: What college did he go to?

McLaughlin: Oh, the University of California. There were four of them at the top of the class and he was one of the four.

Baum: When you say Dr. McLaughlin you're referring to your husband.

McLaughlin: Yes, when referring to his father we called him the old doctor.

Baum: So your husband was quite a bit ahead of you at U.C. You didn't meet him there.

McLaughlin: Oh, no. I think he was seven or eight years older than I was.

Baum: And then he set up a practice here in San Francisco.

McLaughlin: Yes, and he had a heavy practice because in the meantime he took on the obligation of taking care of his father's second family--his father was getting old--and he took care of everybody.

Dr. McLaughlin's Medical Practice

Baum: When he had his own private practice he had an office.

McLaughlin: Oh yes, in fact, he had two offices. He had one in town. And he had one way out on the edge of the city. As I said, he just worked terrifically hard. He was really a remarkably brilliant doctor.

Just before I came over here somebody came up and spoke to me. The woman said to me, "Aren't you Mrs. McLaughlin?" And I said, "Yes." And she said, "I thought you were the doctor's wife." After all this time, this is the way she speaks of him. Of course, practicing medicine in those days, you carried a heavy burden as you had so few laws to help you protect the public. I said, "I guess you were the one who had the diptheria." She said, "Oh yes." I said, "Did your father ever tell you the story?" And she laughed and said, "Yes. The doctor just left word that my father was not to come home."

Her father was in the hog-packing business. And he had appeared at our house and wanted to see Dr. McLaughlin. I said, "He's resting." And he said, "I have to see him. I can't go home. Who ever heard of such nonsense! The idea!" Dr. McLaughlin just walked in and said, "Get another doctor." "Oh, you wouldn't do that to us." He said, "You either get another doctor or you stay out of that house. You're in a position where you can spread this and I won't have it. Just let me know what happens."

Baum: Getting back to his practice, was he in practice with any other doctors? Or was he all alone?

McLaughlin: He always had assistants.

Baum: Were they doctors or were they technicians?

McLaughlin: He always had one assistant and generally a second. Then, besides, he had a nurse who was probably trained in obstetrics. It was a very interesting set-up. In order to handle a practice like that, he had to be sure that during pregnancy and afterwards, the woman was practically cared for. So he trained this woman, in the last year he really had her as a midwife. But when a woman registered with him as pregnant, he or the nurse called on her constantly, and saw that she got into the office for an examination. This was really a process of education. They didn't go into hospitals then, you see. Then the nurse went into the home a couple of months before the baby was born and showed them how to set up the house.

She showed them how people living as simply as a great many of those people did, could be sure of asepsis and do it with simple things and do it well. Then she would go off when the call came in. She was trained by that time so she could tell how long it would be. And either he or one of the other doctors would be there at the end. In the end, as I said, he allowed her to deliver the babies. Then she went into that household every day for ten days. She cleaned up the woman and the baby and left a fresh situation as far as the mother was concerned. Then the mother saw the doctor at the end of that time. And then they had the right to come and get any minor advice for the baby for the first year. All of this was $35 for an ordinary patient, and $40 for an instrument case.

Baum: Heavens! That was really service.

McLaughlin: As he said, it was protection. It had to be done and done right. This woman [nurse] was a person who inspired trust and knew how to handle people. He had a great many Italian patients. And there were all sorts of things that he had to gradually teach them. His set-up was terribly interesting.

Baum: He didn't specialize in obstetrics, though.

McLaughlin: No. In those days you did everything.

Baum: I would think it would be rather hard to handle very many cases.

McLaughlin: We once looked up the figures. I've forgotten what this was for. He had twelve babies a month for a certain number of years. Then they had as many as seventeen a month.

Baum: You mean one doctor did. One clinic.

McLaughlin: As I said, he always had one permanent assistant and sometimes two. Besides there was one highly trained woman in obstetrics. And she had an assistant. It was a crew. He was doing all this with a horse-and-buggy.

Baum: How did you ever get to see him?

McLaughlin: Any woman who marries a doctor has to be prepared. A doctor is so interested in the fact that he's doing what he's doing and that he is enjoying himself that you have to be prepared for what it takes because it means a constant life of service. But it's a terribly interesting life.

Baum: That meant you were alone a lot, I suppose.

McLaughlin: Yes. You don't ever get into a thing of that kind unless you're prepared for it. The average girl now is running to work. You never could tell what was coming next that you'd have to take care of. The conditions were so difficult.

One night, it was a terrific winter, they had an assistant, two nurses, that meant three horses and buggies, to go and take care of a woman who had a miscarriage. And her husband had refused to allow her to be properly taken care of. It was a frightful thing. And Dr. McLaughlin said just before he went, "I'm risking the life of three skilled people, besides my own." The road was so poor. You can't imagine how bad the roads were in some places. And it meant that the driver had to lead the lead horse with the rest of them following. But they went and they saved her life.

Baum: In those days infection was such a terrible thing.

McLaughlin: There was much less hospital care than there is now. The hospitals really were mainly for surgery.

Baum: You say that your husband had a large number of Italian patients?

McLaughlin: Yes.

Baum: What neighborhood was that in?

McLaughlin: In the Mission. They were really the vegetable garden people. For instance, out where Forest Hill is now, were vegetable gardens. He had this facility for languages.

Baum: I was wondering if he could speak Italian.

McLaughlin: They all thought he was an accomplished linguist. He learned French and Italian. He just picked it up. He had this kind of an ear. Languages are either a lot of work or else there's a combination of brain and ear that go together. His French and Italian patients had no idea but that he had complete facility in that language.

Baum: I know most foreign people won't go to a doctor they can't speak to in their own language. They're afraid. So they must have had confidence in him.

Did you ever accompany him on any cases? Before the baby was born, I mean.

McLaughlin: Occasionally, when for some reason or other they'd get stuck, they'd send for me to help out on a minor thing. It was a very interesting, full, and satisfying life.

Baum: Did he work in any hospitals?

McLaughlin: Yes. The thing he was really interested in was surgery. There was this Jewish doctor that had the biggest Jewish practice in San Francisco. He had a wonderful person at the head of surgery, who was afterwards Dr. Holsclaw. You're too young to remember, but she was a pediatrician

McLaughlin: after that. He had a fine surgical set-up.

Of course medical school was much too far out for the average person then. While Dr. McLaughlin had automobiles before he died, the average person didn't have an automobile. And he was furious with the University because they didn't treat the man he considered the great surgeon, R.A. McLain--Herbert Evans' uncle by the way, but a much finer person than Herbert Evans ever thought of being. I don't know if Stanford's hospital had been started at that time. Of course there was the Children's.

Baum: You said your husband did surgery with this surgeon.

McLaughlin: No, he didn't do it with him. He used his hospital.

Baum: You don't remember the name of the hospital.

McLaughlin: It was called after this man. I'll remember his name. (Hahnemann) It was a private hospital. It was this man's hospital. But Dr. McLaughlin had no connection with him. He said, all I want is the use of your surgery. This man had these devoted patients but he really wanted Dr. McLaughlin to do his surgery for him, and not let anybody know it. Naturally Dr. McLaughlin wouldn't have anything to do with it. But other people did use it. It was a famous place and most reputable. Dr. Holsclaw was the head nurse there for years. The hospital was very successful.

Baum: The main persons in the hospital would be surgery cases. The others were attended in their homes. How about nursing staff? Were there nurses available in the city?

McLaughlin: Terribly overworked. They worked twenty-four hours a day. You didn't have three nurses around the clock. Twenty-four hours a day you were on the job and were paid probably about $10.

Baum: Was that a popular career for women in those days?

McLaughlin: There were some fine nurses, wonderful nurses. I think they were a more dedicated group than they are at the present time. When Dr. McLaughlin

McLaughlin: had typhoid, I said to this woman, "How do you stand this?" She said, "Well, we're only supposed to be able to do it about ten years." There were a few who were sturdy and could do it. But there was very good nursing. They trained at the City and County. I don't know but I presume that there were nurses from the University of California Hdspital. Then there were other private hospitals and every hospital had a training school for nurses. But of all the overworked people I've ever know, it was those nurses. And dedicated! They'd do a perfectly magnificent job.

Baum: Did nice young ladies from middle-class families go into nursing?

McLaughlin: Occasionally.

Baum: Or was it from the lower class families that they usually got their nurses?

McLaughlin: That I can't answer you. I don't think it's changed very much. One of the great tragedies now is that the training schools are closed. Children's is closed. I don't think there's a training school at Presbyterian. The way those girls worked.

Baum: Your husband had, you said, this one lady and probably a couple of other ladies on his staff that he would assign out.

McLaughlin: He had her and then the girl who had charge of the office and then he always had one assistant and then one man in regular practice if he needed extra help.

Baum: He always had a nurse in his office to assist him. And then he had--did he have any nurses he could put out in homes?

McLaughlin: He always had a list. You could find women who were good nurses. Nursing might have been hard work but there were plenty of them that were ready to do it. To get nurses then, I think, wasn't nearly so hard as it is now.

Baum: Strange when you consider the difficult job and the low pay.

McLaughlin: I haven't any idea how much nurses earned. I've forgotten.

Baum: I'm sure it was much less in comparison to the average wage than it is now.

McLaughlin: It wasn't more than $10, it may have been $7.50. I'm surprised at the number of them that lived through it. There was a hospital not very far from the Children's, something like Woman's, that had a very fine training school. The German Hospital was always staffed. Then, also, there was the French Hospital. I don't know whether they had nursing. But at those you paid so much a month to belong. They were run by membership. Ordinarily they weren't as high grade as the other private hospitals. But out of this nursing group there were people like Dr. Holsclaw. She was undoubtedly as fine a pediatrician as you could find. She was Langley Porter's assistant. She came out of a nursing group. Every once in a while, not infrequently, I don't suppose you'd know who Dr. Ebright was. His first wife was a charming woman--a nurse. There were plenty of nice nurses.

Dr. McLaughlin Contracts Tuberculosis

After we were married and Jean was born, typhoid and all of these communicable diseases were endemic in San Francisco. And after he had typhoid, Dr. McLaughlin got tuberculosis. And in those days tuberculosis meant you were gone.

Baum: After he realized he had tuberculosis, did he go to a sanitarium?

McLaughlin: He went up to Pleasanton with his horses. It was the sort of thing that kills anywhere within a couple of months.

Baum: They had a lot of sanitariums for TB.

McLaughlin: Not in those days. He died in 1908. They were just starting.

Baum: Did they know it was rest that was necessary?

McLaughlin: He did. In fact he tried to see what could be done with X-rays, with intensified X-rays. He had a fine clinical laboratory and a very good clinician, a very high trained Englishman. I don't know whether any X-ray could have done anything, but nevertheless he tried that with some people. But it was really a sentence of death in those days. A few people might recover in those sanitoria that they had but generally they made them comfortable until they died.

Baum: I guess I heard of people who recovered but it was in 1913, '14, and '15. It was a little later period.

McLaughlin: His was picked up very early. And I'm convinced, from the modern standpoint, it would have taken no time at all to clear it up. We've seen plenty of cases that have cleared up. I don't know whether they still collapse lungs or not, but nothing of that sort was ever done in those days. There was just a small spot on his lung. This was considered the sentence of death. In those days it was the big thing that really made the patient feel that there was no help. As I say, you could never ask him to live if he felt he was a menace to everyone around him.

Baum: They knew it was contagious. But they didn't know how to cure it.

McLaughlin: They knew that rest was essential.

Then the earthquake came and he was very pleased with the idea that he could come home and go to work. Our income was wiped out in the fire.

Baum: But he should have rested in order to try to preserve his life.

McLaughlin: You couldn't judge him because he felt he was a menace to his own baby. The only time I ever saw him cry was that. He picked her up and then stopped himself right in the midst of it and put her down.

Housekeeping for a Doctor's Family

Baum: When you got married your husband's practice was already established. Where did you live?

McLaughlin: We lived out in the southern end of the city.

Baum: Was it a task to set up housekeeping? Was that something you could handle easily or was it a whole new world for you?

McLaughlin: Oh no, it wasn't hard. This is an example of the difference in pay. When I was married I had as fine a maid as you could get. She was a very good cook. She got $35 a month. I hope the scale of prices is as interesting to you as it is to me. That same woman would be getting $350 now. Bea was an expert. And then she helped with the baby. Even then it was a busy life. I think that sort of a price is interesting to you.

Baum: Oh my, yes. And the competence of the household help is...

McLaughlin: She was just as competent as could be. She went back to Ireland, I think. And after my father died and my sister and I were alone we had her again. By that time she got $75 a month. This was just after the First World War. That woman now would be just cooking. She wouldn't do anything else. That's what they get now, $350, if you can get them.

Baum: When was your daughter born?

McLaughlin: 1905.

Baum: I suppose that made you particularly busy after that, what with your husband's irregular life.

McLaughlin: When she was a baby I had to have somebody to leave her with because there were things that I had to do. And after he was ill I had to have a competent person with us because she had to be properly cared for. He was awfully hard on her. He felt that she must never get to the point

McLaughlin: that had happened in his lifetime when he was taken away from his mother. So I had to come home every week. And that was awfully hard on the baby. He didn't realize how hard it was on her. Then she would cling to me frantically.

Baum: Oh, you went with him so he could rest.

McLaughlin: In the last year of his life.

Baum: And then you came home every week to stay with the baby, I see.

McLaughlin: It was awfully hard on the poor little thing.

Baum: Yes. So she'd have that constant separation.

The San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, 1906

Baum: The year after must have been the Earthquake. And you say your husband was away at that time. Do you recall anything about the Earthquake? Was your house in the fire area?

McLaughlin: No, nothing was burned around our house. I thought it was very exciting. There was a terrific shake as I look back upon it. You had the feeling somebody had a hold of the house and was just doing this to it (shaking). He came home and remembered there were cisterns in the neighborhood and told the firemen where they were. Fire broke out in one or two places. There was still some water in those cisterns. There was a system that hadn't been kept up. Any place that there was any water, the town was safe.

I look back upon the Earthquake as a time that showed to me how remarkable the average human being was. The spiritual value of the Earthquake is an invaluable thing in my life. Everybody had lost everything. After ten days everybody was Christian, helping everybody else. It was the most beautiful spirit you could possibly

McLaughlin: imagine, even for the most sordid people you ever knew. A man that I thought just lived for his own pleasure lost two places of business and his home, I happened to meet him less than a week after. I thought I would have to at least be polite. I mentioned his losses. He said, "The world doesn't owe me anything. America has been wonderful to me. My wife and I have just decided that we've got enough so we can get our grandson an education." This was the way people lived.

Although Dr. McLaughlin was violently anti-Catholic, he had charge of the Roman Catholic infants. They had water. Sister Mary invited me to come up and have a bath. Something was said and she said, "Our shelves are clean today. We haven't a thing left. We just hand it out as people passed." I said, "But Sister Mary, how'd you dare do that with all these orphans?" She said, "Mrs. McLaughlin, it's God's work, I dare not do it."

The difference between now and then I think is best illustrated by the fact--my parents were off Franklin between Post and Geary. There was a man who slept in the house. As the fire approached there, the fire came within a block, the army would chase this man out. There were times when the house was alone. It was entered once and somebody took two blankets. Who would begrudge two blankets to people who were streaming out Geary Street with nothing? Imagine what would be happening now. Don't you think that shows the contrast? They went into this house filled with things.

Baum: There was some looting, wasn't there? At least they put out the soldiers immediately to prevent looting.

McLaughlin: The soldiers, in the beginning, under Funston, were put out to see what they could do to control the fire. Mr. Schmitz would not do what Colonel Funston wanted done. Colonel Funston wanted to go several blocks ahead of the fire and bomb and stop the fire. Mayor Schmitz didn't have the courage. So they bombed the block ahead. That only encouraged the fire. That's what the soldiers were out for. They were

McLaughlin: patrolling at night. The only case of that kind that I know was the soldiers stopped a man who was driving in a buggy. This man was killed at that time accidentally. The question of looting hardly came into the situation.

The fire came so quickly through the downtown area where the stores were. Robinson, the bird man, was on Kearney Street. He just stood at the front door and offered people an animal as they went along just so they wouldn't be burned. I never heard of any looting. And we were right there. The fire came up and stopped on the east side of Van Ness Avenue, jumped across Van Ness at Post, which was a block away, and went up Pine and the wind changed and the fire was controlled.

Baum: I guess that people weren't in any danger although they were camped out in the parks and all. I mean, danger from each other, from violence or that sort of thing. I don't know about now. I'd hate to see a lot of unprotected people.

McLaughlin: In fact I never felt that as many people died as they said. The only case I knew of were some people that were living down on Townsend and about 5th. They were next door to a brick building. They were in a wooden building. The brick building fell over on them. There was a mother and father and one child and there was a wee baby that was found hanging. Its dress had caught on a floor and it had come through the ceiling. And they rescued this baby. Everybody that needed help was taken to the Mechanics Pavilion, which is where the auditorium is now. and then they were evacuated to the park. The fire stopped on Friday night. On Monday the grandfather of that baby had that baby. The baby had been fed and was perfectly healthy and well taken care of.

You were never in any danger. I drove across town that morning to tell my mother that the baby and I were all right. So I saw the worst of the earthquake destruction. I saw at 18th and Valencia where there had been a store and two stories above it, and it was down to the dwelling places. The store dropped right

McLaughlin: down. That was where the creek had been filled in. It was terrible going down Van Ness Avenue and turning into Market Street and from there down. But the cavalry was out to see what they could do to stop the fire. Funston earned a great amount of gratitude from anyone who understood what he tried to do. Half of the town might have been saved if his plans had been observed.

The City Hall was in complete ruins. My best recollection of it was that what were great big dark columns, tremendous ones, had fallen over into the street and they were just filled with sand spilling out of the columns.

Baum: Weren't they supposed to be solid columns?

McLaughlin: I don't know what they were supposed to be. I'm just telling you what they were. It was in complete ruins.

Baum: I've seen photographs of that. That was a terrible thing.

McLaughlin: I don't know that they show the sand though.

Baum: No, I've never heard of that.

McLaughlin: I don't know what the columns were made of. They must have been tin. Maybe this was the way they built them. I don't know. Of course there had been a series of venal administrations. There's no doubt about that. My recollection of it was that the people were magnificent.

Baum: Was your father's meat packing business damaged?

McLaughlin: He had just put in coolers, and those stood. The rest of it went off into the bay.

Baum: Did he lose a lot of money or was he able to keep going without great financial loss?

McLaughlin: He had to build a new plant. When it was finished he said, "I'm so glad it happened. I'm in better shape."

I think I can typify the way he felt. We moved my mother out because the fire started down

McLaughlin: on Golden Gate and Franklin and we thought we'd have to get her out. So I had driven in just to assure her that I was all right. After the fire stopped, my husband came in and said, "Your mother isn't acting as usual, you'd better go out there." She was saying, "We can gather together enough for you and me. You've never dealt in the kind of business that people will want now. It will be all the rough stuff that you've never had. You've never handled anything but the best. Don't go back into business. The children can take care of themselves and there will be enough for us." My brother said, "Give it to me. I can make a success of it." My father said, "I did it once, I'll do it again." He said, "We're going to go on."

Baum: This was the time that your mother was beginning to make quite a profit from her stocks and bonds.

McLaughlin: Yes. She didn't know what would happen where.

Baum: So she couldn't tell about it, especially if she had any investments in local industries.

McLaughlin: Oh, I can't tell you how good they were. This great friend of ours in Monterey, the first day the mail moved, there was a letter to my father saying, "I've put $25,000 to your credit in the bank in Monterey. You can have as much more as you want." He never had to take it. He never touched the original money. I mean, people looked after each other.

Baum: It must have been an inspiring period.

McLaughlin: It really was. I'll tell you something funny. (Laughter) My father's head vaquero was an Irishman. The Earthquake I think was a quarter past five and at a quarter of six he'd gotten into the house on Franklin Street on horseback. He rang the bell and my sister came to the door. He said, "Get your father quickly." "Jack, if Emma and the baby are dead you tell me." He said, "I told you to get your father." She said, "Oh Jack, is it terrible?" She knew he probably would have passed my house. He said, "To hell with Emma, the plant's in the bay. I'm here to tell your father I know of some places

McLaughlin: where we could start to kill in the morning. Tell him to come!" This was the spirit.

Baum: All ready to go an hour later.

McLaughlin: Yes. He had come in to report. This is what happened. I'm not exaggerating. There was a wonderful spirit. Everybody was badly off and it lasted for a little time.

At that time there was only one person that failed. My father's office was on Kearney Street. The bookkeeper was hurt slightly and didn't get down there. You know what the stories of the safes were. Buildings were burning and the safes were there. The first people that opened them--everything burned up, so you had to wait to let them cool. There were some people that my father sold stuff to that owed him money. The check for that was substantial, maybe a couple of thousand dollars. Nothing was said about it. And the safe wasn't opened for six months I think. So when the check came out of the safe they just put it through the bank and never said anything about it. Those are the only people that acted that way.

The men that worked for him were just perfectly wonderful.

Baum: I don't quite follow. They didn't offer to pay, but they did pay when he finally put the check through.

McLaughlin: Yes, they realized it. But our men were wonderful. They said, "Don't worry about us. We'll get along until there's money around." Dr. McLaughlin sold his precious horses for about $4,000 before he left Pleasanton and came home.

Baum: He came home as soon as he heard about the Earthquake.

McLaughlin: Oh yes, oh yes.

Baum: And then you said he felt he had a good excuse to go back to work instead of resting. Was this necessary financially?

McLaughlin: No, he didn't have to do it.

Baum: Of course when your life is at stake, nothing's that necessary.

McLaughlin: No. As I say, you can't judge anybody who felt they were a menace to their own child. What was the use for living?

Baum: He didn't think he could become non-contagious.

McLaughlin: You can't imagine how people felt about TB, the way people feel about cancer now.

Baum: At least cancer's not contagious.

McLaughlin: No, but it's a terminal thing, devastating. It was a sentence of death for him. From his standpoint he met it bravely.

Baum: He lived two years after that, then.

McLaughlin: Sometimes he could work and sometimes he couldn't.

Baum: Then he left you a very young widow.

Comments on the San Francisco Graft Trials

Baum: I meant to ask you about the graft scandals that were going on before the Earthquake. Were you very interested in that at that time? Was your father involved in that?

McLaughlin: They weren't involved in any way but the whole town was in a terrific turmoil. There's no doubt in the world of the guilt of Schmitz and Ruef. They left San Francisco in a terrible position.

Baum: Was your father still active in politics?

McLaughlin: No, not then.

Baum: He had withdrawn before he might have done anything about this.

McLaughlin: He was a good Democrat right up until the end. He voted for William Jennings Bryan. When I think of the silly arguments they used at the time. He was a Democrat first and foremost. My brother used to say, "How could a livestock man be a Democrat?" I said, "He was Irish before he was a livestock man."

Everything completely followed that very closely. And it affected everybody's life. More and more the meatpackers were coming under the Board of Health. A venal administration was an obnoxious thing for everybody in the business. He wanted a good Board of Health.

Baum: I understand that while most people favored the graft prosecution there were some who were afraid it would get too close to business feelings, so there was a split.

McLaughlin: People differed very deeply as to who was guilty. I personally never had the slightest doubt because it happened that a friend of ours made a marriage that should never have been. She married a man who had control--who had apparently arranged with Ruef and Schmitz that everybody who got a license for liquor would buy Schlitz beer and Black and White whiskey and so forth from him.

Baum: From Ruef?

McLaughlin: No, from this husband of this friend of ours. It was the queerest thing that happened in that particular family, that she should have married a man of that type.

He'd come to America to learn to be a Junker and go back to his native country, Germany, with money. He felt the way to do it was to get it out of liquor. He controlled Black and White, Schlitz beer, and some of the others. He had arrangements with Ruef and Schmitz that no license would be granted unless they dealt with him. When the Earthquake came, why, all of this stopped and he was completely ruined. It was the only case I've ever seen where there was a

McLaughlin: reformation. It's terribly interesting. Before that he felt that you could get away with anything. He wasn't an uneducated gross person at all. He had a steely determination to make money and to go back. He thought that Germany was the only place that had any culture. His wife was a great friend of ours. I was staying with them--they had a place across the bay. He had crossed the continent after, apparently, a very successful business trip and he said, "I bought a translation of Goethe, I wanted to see whether it was well translated." Yet on the other hand, he was doing this other business.

Ruef, you see, was a graduate of the University of California.

Baum: Oh yes, he was quite an idealist when he started out, I think. He started out as a reformer but he slipped badly.

McLaughlin: He was very brilliant, very quick, even after he got out. But people said he was dishonest after he got out, too. I'm in no position to know that, I don't know. Except I do know he was smart as anything.

Baum: He must have been very sly socially because I understand he was socially accepted.

McLaughlin: We had a friend who was in one of the classes of the '80s over here. He was one of the prominent graduates here [Berkeley]. Everybody knew Ruef when he was in college. Our friend said he was going along on Montgomery Street and somebody spoke to him. He looked up and he said, "Abe," and this man was never rattled. He said, "I looked at him and I said, why Abe, I haven't seen you for a long time." Ruef said, "No, John, you don't seem to have been visiting across the bay where I was." There was none of the feeling of guilt and the rest of it. He was terribly smart.

Baum: He must have been.

McLaughlin: In the elections of the Ruef era, they were trying to get--I now get on to the United Railroads and its president Patrick Calhoun. Sutter and Fillmore Streets for a time, even after

McLaughlin: downtown was really built, was the gathering place for people that would generally be down on Mason Street. We were passing a car and I said to the chauffeur, "What are all these crowds here for?" And he said, "The news has gone forth that Calhoun will give $5 to everybody who will vote for Fickert." I said, "Why don't they take the $5 and vote for whomever they want?" (Laughter) The dishonesty in politics was a tragic thing in San Francisco. In the end, I think the graft prosecution did everybody good. I don't mean to say it was permanently cleaned up.

How much Heney did this prosecution and why he did it, I don't know. Rudolph Spreckels was as crooked as he could be in the end. But he was one of the people in back of the clean-up. He ended up because he was crooked, broke, you know that.

He became president of the First National Bank and finally he was out-voted. The board of directors put him out. In the meantime he was running things in the City Hall with people as low as McShea. They didn't make them any worse than that. Spreckels generally went in to things for personal grudges. He did start another bank. He went East. Then he went in heavily for Costa Radio. He got everybody involved in the thing. It was crooked and he went broke, lost everything including any reputation he might have had or any honor. That's the trouble in most of these. No one respected him, or very few people did. They weren't prepared to accept him as a crusader. At that time, however, I imagine he was relatively fair.

Comments on James D. Phelan

Brewer: I'd also like to get your reminiscences about James D. Phelan. [James Duval Phelan, mayor of San Francisco, 1897-1902, U.S. Senator, 1915-1921, a patron of the arts and letters.]

McLaughlin: I had no intimate touch with Mr. Phelan. He was mayor before Schmitz. It was just one of these official things that comes up if you're doing any sort of social work. He'd been a remarkable mayor (elected 1897). He was a citizen that really used his energy and wealth for California and for the city. He left a reputation of having done so much for the poets and for the writers in California. He did a sterling job for them. I don't know whether he had any judgment about art. He had the reputation of having done very little after he became a Senator. But my impression was that he was an extremely fine citizen with a classical education from the Jesuits that made him a gentleman of culture, really. He was a benign friend of a great many worthwhile people. He was very clever, very brilliant, and socially, apparently, a remarkably charming host. Montalvo [Phelan's estate at Los Gatos] was the center of a great deal of fine times and fine people visiting there.

Baum: How did you come in contact with him?

McLaughlin: We had, in San Francisco, a Library Committee, for the public library. They were all the best book-lovers in San Francisco; with the exception of Judge Sloss nobody had ever thought of a library for just ordinary people. Judge Sloss, of course, understood that the League had a Library Committee and why they were working. We had the worst library for a city of its size in the United States. This was a self-perpetuating board of book lovers. They were very fine people. Mr. Phelan was on it. The League would have him--there were certain things we depended upon him for, politically. He invited me once down to Montalvo and I'm exceedingly sorry that I felt ill at the last moment.

McLaughlin: It was the first time that a social thing had me with a complete lack of confidence. (Laughter) I regret it very much. I thought it was nice of him to ask me.

He came once to the League when we had the Oxford debaters. He took them afterwards, in his car, around San Francisco and gave them a history of the city. Then he took them out to the Golden Gate and told them about the naming of it and so forth. He was a most charming host. Malcolm McDonald was one of them, Ramsey McDonald's son. They were very high grade boys. He did that sort of thing.

I was so surprised when he asked me to come down there. One reason I didn't go was that I wondered if he'd remember me. I wasn't going to walk in and not be expected. He really was a cultivated gentleman who loved his community. His will was terribly interesting. Montalvo was left to the Art Association. There was a $150,000 or $250,000 endowment; the grounds were to be a park for the public and a place where creative artists could go and live. Then he left a sizable amount of money for home nursing for indigent people. It was a million or two million, I don't remember. His will was as fine a will as I ever read. Montalvo was finally taken from the Art Association and turned over to a local group who are doing some very interesting community work down there. That place is running now with a large group of volunteers.

Baum: It doesn't sound like he was for books for the common man, though. He was one of those fine book lovers.

McLaughlin: Yes. There was no conception about libraries. The fine book lovers saw that what they had was well run. We had the man who did the Oakland survey come over and meet the Library Commission at the invitation of the League of Women Voters library committee. Mr. Phelan immediately said that San Francisco should have a survey. He was following Judge Sloss. It was eventually done.

Baum: You mean if the need was pointed out to him he was willing to look at it.

McLaughlin: We didn't talk to him about this. This wasn't for the common man.

Baum: Was the League working for the common man?

McLaughlin: We, the League, felt that families needed to be sure of education, health, recreation, and that education meant a library system from which the students could get their books.

I told the present librarian that I waited forty-five years for him. This isn't far from true. We had on the board years ago a woman who had been so good a librarian at Pittsburgh that her name was still remembered a few years ago. She gave us an outside survey of the library. Then we had a succession of library surveys.

Disease and Plague in San Francisco

Baum: Last time we'd gotten to about 1908, but we skipped over the plague. I looked that up in the Langley Porter interview and he said it came in 1907, just following the Earthquake.

McLaughlin: It was after the Earthquake. I can't tell you how the excitement about it started. I suppose they found some animal with the infection. I feel very stupid that I can't tell you just how Dr. McLaughlin made the diagnosis for this girl that she had the plague because he saw her and told the parents that she would have to be isolated. I think they took her to what we used to call the Pest House, which was across the street from San Francisco Hospital. Of course they objected terribly but his diagnosis was confirmed.

There was a man I think by the name of Blue that was sent out by the United States government,

McLaughlin: Dr. Blue, who superintended the cleaning up of San Francisco, and cleaning those places where rats were. The supposition was that the animals had come off some ocean liner that had brought this infection from the Orient. When they say cleaning up, you always want to know what that means. I can remember that there was a place on Potrero that always had open freight cars for hauling dirt and debris, what my mother called culch. Apparently this was where they found rats. The main thing that I can remember about it was that they really felt they had protected us against the plague. The one concrete result that an ordinary person would know was that up until that time everybody in San Francisco was at times annoyed with fleas. And there weren't fleas in anybody's house after that.

Baum: Do you recall there being any excitement about the plague or did they keep it quiet?

McLaughlin: Oh no, the plague was freely discussed. There was a great deal of discussion about the methods this man Dr. Blue took. He took more autocratic power than...

Baum: He was from the U.S. Public Health Service.

McLaughlin: I imagine so. He did a very good job.

Baum: Did anyone object to him? I think he required a lot of clean-up of businesses and things like that. A lot of people objected to that.

McLaughlin: He questioned people very closely. But the sum total left the people of San Francisco happy, I think. So I think the final summing up would be that it was a very fortunate thing for San Francisco and they were made very conscious of the risk of carriers. I think very likely some of that material I saw the other day from the League of Women Voters about the handling of disposable garbage--they might possibly have some material, I don't know.

Baum: Dr. Langley Porter said that there was a great fear in San Francisco that foreign countries would quarantine this port. That's why everyone jumped into the clean-up with great enthusiasm.

McLaughlin: I've no doubt that he was right. There was a horror, a reluctance to be disturbed and a gratitude when it was cleaned up. I should say that's the best summing up I can give you. Dr. McLaughlin had this patient, this girl, and he announced after examination that he was sure she had the plague. Her father was very indignant that she had to be quarantined. He certainly had the power, this man was one of his hunting friends. He said, "All right, I'm going to get another doctor for her. I'm sure she's got the plague." And this was confirmed. It was one of the first cases they found. I don't know how many of them there were.

Baum: I've always heard this referred to as "the plague." I'm assuming this is bubonic.

McLaughlin: It was bubonic.

Baum: I thought people died from that necessarily.

McLaughlin: Not necessarily. This girl didn't die. I think Dr. Geiger came in on this after.

Baum: Dr. Langley Porter said also that after the Earthquake there were some cases of smallpox and leprosy. I wondered if that was known around the city.

McLaughlin: I never heard of leprosy.

Baum: He said they put the people at Carrville.

McLaughlin: Smallpox, when we were children, there was a good deal of it. We were all vaccinated. Gradually that situation was cleared up. At the Earthquake time there might have been some flare-up.

Baum: There usually is that kind of thing after an earthquake. Did your husband ever come into contact with Dr. Langley Porter?

McLaughlin: I don't know.

The loss from smallpox after the Earthquake, no, it was before the Earthquake--- When my daughter was a month old I had to take her to my mother's because he had gone into a case, examined

McLaughlin: it, and by afternoon he telephoned and said, "That case I saw this morning I suspected smallpox and now it's clear. Since I was in contact, you and Jean will just have to stay away for a length of time." But that was the only time I ever remember that he came in contact with it.

Baum: I was wondering if this was a common problem of a doctor's family. Would there be many times that he would come in contact with a serious disease?

McLaughlin: Of course the change in diseases in fifty years is just extraordinary. Typhoid and diptheria and scarlet fever were serious diseases. There were a great many of them fifty or sixty years ago. The plumbing in the schools had become infected with diptheria. Typhoid came from other conditions. The vegetable gardens set-up was such that the watering tanks with which they irrigated their vegetables--the vegetable gardens were scattered in different places in San Francisco. I told you that there was a big Italian colony out in what is now Forest Hill. Their windmills and their water were placed alongside of the toilets. This typhoid spread in many ways. That was one of the ways it spread.

You have no conception of the way milk was handled. This was a terrific danger. Then, of course, we were still getting shellfish from the bay. That was another way that typhoid was picked up.

There are many doctors that go through Stanford or Berkeley and never see a case of typhoid. But it was--I was going to say it was endemic in certain parts of the city. It was certainly frequently heard of. I know it occurred in the vegetable gardens because Dr. McLaughlin treated so many of these Italian people.

Bridal Portrait - 1904

1927

With a grandson

CHAPTER IV

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

San Francisco Center of the California Civic League; Forerunner of the League of Women Voters

Beginnings in the College Women's Equal Suffrage League

Brewer: What can you tell us about the work of the different women's organizations to get votes for women in California?

McLaughlin: My experience was very limited. We'd always known that there was this group of older women who had been suffragists. Mrs. John Swift, Mrs. William Kent, Mrs. Sargent were a California group of the American Women's Suffrage Association. The national leader, of course, was Susan B. Anthony.

Locally, when the suffrage proposal was passed in this Bay Region, there had been a group of younger people: Mrs. Frank Deering, Mrs. Ernestine Black, McKinney Stanwood, Ethel Moore, Mrs. Clinton Walker--the College Women's Equal Suffrage League. They were the younger group who worked for suffrage. Mrs. William Kent was a Woman's Party woman. I presume she worked at that time, I don't remember. I do know the College Women's Suffrage League went about giving plays. My recollection was that San Francisco did not vote for women's suffrage. I've always understood it was the farm vote that carried it.

California Civic League, Officers and Purposes

McLaughlin: From the standpoint of my knowledge, the College Women's Suffrage League turned itself into the California Civic League. Anita Whitney became the state president and Mrs. James Ellis Tucker was local president of the California Civic League, the San Francisco Center; followed by Mrs. Graupner for a year and then Miss Marion Delany for four years. This was the organization founded to stimulate women to be good citizens and to understand the political situation and obligations. They were the first group that presented the candidates to a non-partisan organization and their membership grew very rapidly and their meetings were stimulating and provocative.

Baum: About what year was this?

McLaughlin: Suffrage, I think, was passed in 1911 and confirmed in '12. The California Civic League was started in 1912. This was a remarkable group of women. The only thing that held them together was their intense feeling about women's rights--that women had the right to vote. They were very diverse.

In the early days of the League of Women Voters--the San Francisco Center of the California Civic League was their name--they worked on the problems of discrimination against women. They were very successful. In that they had the leadership of a woman lawyer, Gail Laughlin, a graduate of Wellesley and Cornell Law School. She was also very beautiful. It's quite remarkable what that group did from the very beginning in that phase. She had worked with Susan B. Anthony. When I knew her she belonged to the Woman's Party.

The next phase of their work were the things to do with and that touch on the family--education, health, recreation. They worked very hard on all of these. There was a library committee, there was an education committee that really did remarkable work. Dr. Adelaide Brown was chairman

McLaughlin: of the public health committee. Amy Steinhart was chairman of the education committee.

Baum: That was legal discrimination against women?

McLaughlin: Representation on juries, protection of women--women in industry and so on. Then we worked on the problem of educating people to the point of having representation. There were some legal disabilities. They led the fight on reviving the community property laws, which had been badly eroded by decisions of the courts.

Baum: Would you call the California Civic League the predecessor of the League of Women Voters?

McLaughlin: Yes.

Baum: Why was that founded?

McLaughlin: There was a group of women who worked for suffrage--a group of younger women. The Women's Suffrage Association had worked for suffrage for a long time. It was in the election of '11 or '12 for women's suffrage.

Baum: It passed in California before it did nationally.

McLaughlin: We had it ten or twelve years before. I think it was passed in 1911. Then it was finally signed in 1912. It was ten years before they got it nationally. You see the local league had really done an awfully good job before the national league had ever come into existence. These women, they were about half Woman's Party women, there were no women from the early Suffrage Association. They had worked for suffrage and when it came they knew that having gained suffrage then women would have to be given leadership and how to use it. They formed the California Civic League. It was a group in San Francisco that did this. That unit was called the San Francisco Center.

Baum: Was this a statewide group?

McLaughlin: It had one or two units. Theoretically it was state-wide. But in order to accomplish what they did in San Francisco they worked very hard.

McLaughlin: There was a state office and a few scattered leagues. Just off-hand I'd say there were a few units.

Baum: Were you in on this this early?

McLaughlin: Not in the beginning, no.

Baum: Do you know who some of the ladies were who were in it from the beginning?

McLaughlin: The first president was Mrs. James Ellis Tucker. You can't imagine how funny this was. She was as rattle-brained as they make them. She was W.B. Bourne's sister. The next president was Mrs. A.E. Graupner. And that lasted a year. She took an unexpired term. Then Miss Marion Delany was president for four years. On the board during most of that time there was Gail Laughlin of the Woman's Party. The secretary of the Center was Genevieve Allen and she was a Woman's Party woman. Mrs. William Kent was on the board. Mrs. Ernestine Wollenberg Black was on the board, a very brilliant newspaperwoman. Mrs. Charles Frank Deering, a great feminist and a great conservative. There were a great many more than these. You can get the list from the League of Women Voters. I followed Miss Delany as president.

As soon as the League was formed, Gail Laughlin took the lead in working on legal discrimination against women. But she belonged to the group that didn't want any protection for women at all. They utterly disbelieved in any of the laws that had been passed about women in industry and anything of that sort, which was, of course, the program of the National Woman's Party. She worked exceedingly well. She straightened out and did so much on the legal side.

Brewer: You mentioned Miss Marion Delany.

McLaughlin: Marion Delany--the League had done good work up until that time--Mrs. Tucker, the first president---- Marion Delany's contribution was really great because, while the League had two years previous needed the sort of people that Marion Delany was. In the first place she was

McLaughlin: exquisite in English. Since so many of the meetings were open forums and speakers were handled by introductions and she did it exquisitely. Ordinarily she had very good judgment about what the League should work on, what was non-partisan, the sort of things that we could do and be effective and continue to be non-partisan. Considering the extremely diverse and strong-minded people that were on her board; you know Alicia Mosgrove's name is not in this and she did a very good piece of work. Marion Delany managed over four years to make a real great contribution and have a very strong organization. By the time she left I'm sure there were about 1,500 members of the Civic League. There was a definite program and understanding of what the Civic League should do locally and in the state. This was her very solid contribution.

Brewer: She had a real sense of civic responsibility for women?

McLaughlin: Oh yes. She did an excellent job and I can say it really gave it a sense of polish when anybody was as fine an English scholar as she was--as she appeared in public.

Brewer: How was she as an organizer? Or as an executive?

McLaughlin: This I don't know. There was a secretary, Genevieve Allen, who was a Woman's Party woman and a dedicated suffragist, with an understanding of how to build open forums. I imagine that Marion Delany made a very good administrator. She certainly knew how to write a good letter and she had a complete understanding of political events without being an advocate.

National League of Women Voters Formed; Militant Feminists Drop Out of San Francisco Center

McLaughlin: I think it was during my administration that the National League was formed. The National League was formed before suffrage was gained nationally, and we went into the National Women's Suffrage Association. Just at the end of my presidency the National League of Women Voters was organized and we went into that. [1920] The National Women's Suffrage Association people all dropped off of our board when we went into the National League.

Baum: Why was that?

McLaughlin: They were such feminists that they didn't want even legislation protecting women in industry to be on the books. They didn't want any discrimination between men and women.

Baum: I guess a lot of women still feel that way about legislation protecting women.

McLaughlin: They're biologically different, though.

Brewer: The theory is that if you don't mention it you don't admit it, is that right?

McLaughlin: But they are biologically different. Women are so organized physically that they cannot meet the same conditions that men can. Gail Laughlin was enough of a feminist that she fought very hard against the League of Nations because there was a section in there against white slavery. Can you imagine that? There was a section in the League of Nations charter that mentioned opposition to white slavery. And she was against the League of Nations because that was mentioned. Can you get any more extreme than that?

Baum: Her feminism was her major interest even though it involved the League of Nations or international relations or anything.

McLaughlin: She was a feminist!

Brewer: I have the impression with some of these women that that was the driving thing, don't you think?

McLaughlin: Oh, it was tremendously driving, tremendously driving. You read about what happened in England.

Baum: You mean when they vandalized the country until they got their rights?

McLaughlin: There was a group of them that came out at the time Hughes was running for election. They were a group of feminists that were traveling at that time hoping to have some effect on their getting suffrage. The Woman's Party was awfully interested in people and very active. But it was extremist. There was an Alice Paul who was one of these people that--for instance when we were working with community property we went to the Labor Temple with Gail Laughlin. We got out of there as soon as she made her speech. She almost always defeated herself by saying something to some man afterwards. You had to handle a lot of these people so that they would use their all when it was a good thing. But a lot of those National Woman's Suffrage women were terribly interesting people and effective people. The National Suffrage Association--The American Woman's Suffrage Association had fallen into older hands. There were great leaders. There was Carrie Chapman Catt and people of that kind. But they weren't really so interesting as the Woman's Party women.

Baum: It sounds like a lot of them were professional women.

McLaughlin: A good many of them were.

Baum: That would be unusual in itself in those days.

McLaughlin: One of the great leaders in the Woman's Party, and I don't think she ever worked with the group in the League although she was very well known, was Sara Bard Field. You can only remember her as an old, old lady. But I remember her when she was a slim little girl, and working awfully hard.

Baum: She was working with the Woman's Party?

McLaughlin: She was one of the leaders.

Baum: She seems like a feminine little lady and not like the militants that you described.

McLaughlin: She just lived up to what she believed in. She and Mr. Fuzzy Wuzzy Wood with that long tail of hair could even make an irregular alliance dignified and they did. It was perfectly dignified. Everybody knew his wife wouldn't give him a divorce.

Baum: But she was one of the militant Woman's Party ladies?

McLaughlin: Oh yes, and Mrs. Kent gave every impression of being a sweet person and yet she was a Woman's Party member.

Brewer: There was someone who did not look militant. She was about five foot two, big blue eyes, and very sweet and lovely.

McLaughlin: She dropped off the San Francisco Center board and I went to her and begged her not to drop off because she gave a very fine presence there. You took anybody like Mrs. Deering--absolutely hard boiled--all of these people on the League board in the beginning had very strong personalities. Mrs. Kent, who had a very fine objective mind had the belief and worked at it without feeling that everybody had to be the same. I begged her not to drop off. And she said, "You can't understand what the Woman's Party has meant to me."

Brewer: Did you have any liason with the Woman's Party from Washington?

McLaughlin: They used to go through San Francisco and you'd see them all. Until we went into the National League--the secretary of the San Francisco Center was a Woman's Party woman. So with her left hand she was running the Woman's Party and with her right hand she was running the San Francisco Center. It was a little complicated and she couldn't see that it made any difference. At least we had the advantage of seeing these different people.

Brewer: Did Mrs. O.H.P. Belmont ever come out?

McLaughlin: You know sometimes you can't remember whether you ever actually saw a person or that you'd heard so much about them that you'd know what they'd be like if they were there. (Laughter) I don't know if she ever came out. They were brilliant. There was no doubt about that.

Baum: I was wondering how some of them would get along with their husbands or if that wasn't pretty far out in those days?

McLaughlin: Well, it was.

Brewer: Mrs. Robert M. La Follette was a member of the Woman's Party. She campaigned for women's suffrage.

McLaughlin: I can't imagine that Mrs. Kent would have been anything but a very loving and intelligent mother. Take a woman like Mrs. Black, she was thoroughly in accord with the National Woman's Party but she didn't carry it all the rest of her life. I can't imagine how many members they have now, I don't know.

Brewer: It's dwindled quite markedly.

McLaughlin: They really wanted an amendment put through that there would be no discrimination between the sexes in any way.

Some of them had had some sort of a life experience that gave them satisfaction from this.

Baum: Some of them sound like fanatics and others sound like they were just legitimately working for women's equal rights.

McLaughlin: That's right.

Brewer: Inez Mulholland was a little later.

McLaughlin: Oh, she was so beautiful, oh my! She died, you know, just after that trip when she came out on the train. A perfectly beautiful creature! I said to the secretary of the Center my grief at Miss Mulholland's death--in appearance she had everything she ever wanted and she was engaged

McLaughlin: or no, she was married before she died--I said something to Mrs. Allen about this and she said, "I think it's wonderful publicity." That lovely creature, perfectly beautiful.

Brewer: When she came out here she didn't ride in the parade the way she did in New York? She rode up Fifth Avenue or whatever dressed like Joan of Arc on a white horse.

McLaughlin: Oh no. (Laughter) There was a trainload of them. You wondered how they ever lasted out here. It reminded me of Bob Kirkwood--this was a young chap, his mother-in-law was in college when I was in college--and we were great friends. He was taking me home one night and he said, "There's only one mystery, I don't see how all of you strong-minded women ever got along." (Laughter)

Baum: Yes. It would be hard enough now but back in those days it sounds like they were far out on the social fringes.

McLaughlin: We wondered how this trainload of women could possibly have done it, but they did.

Brewer: They arrived intact?

McLaughlin: Yes.

Baum: I think Sara Bard Field drove back to the East Coast in an open car to publicize suffrage.

McLaughlin: She worked very hard. The first time I ever saw her she was in some kind of a parade at the 1915 Exposition for the Woman's Party. She weighed about ninety pounds and looked about twenty years old, although I think she already had this child. This girl [Mrs. Baum] can't believe what age does to people.

Baum: As I said, I've seen Sara Bard Field and she's a tiny little lady and she must have always been a tiny little lady.

McLaughlin: She was. She and Colonel Wood always were outstanding liberals and working for leftist, liberal groups. Nevertheless, for a good many

McLaughlin: years before his death, she had to give up most of her activity, even her writing. Don't ask me what she ever wrote because I don't know. She really took care of him. She was expressing herself in some other way then. If you talked with her you would have no doubt where her stand was on these things.

Baum: I just couldn't imagine her in this militant suffrage group. It sounds like your group actually did break up and the militants went one way and the others went another way.

McLaughlin: The Woman's Party did break up. As life went on some of them may have dropped away, but did not work with any other group. The group that founded the California Civic League--the Woman's Party women left when we went into the National League. We lost a great deal of virility thereby because they had it.

Baum: Is this because the National League already had a reputation that they didn't agree with?

McLaughlin: Their approach to feminism was different than the National League of Women Voters. Susan B. Anthony had just died. When you had these people in an organization for a long time you didn't argue with Carrie Chapman Catt. She just made pronouncements.

Baum: I haven't ever thought of the League of Women Voters as militant feminists.

McLaughlin: Basically that's what they were.

Baum: In the beginning.

McLaughlin: Well, they still are.

Baum: Not feminists. They're militant improvers maybe.

McLaughlin: I'll tell you, they're supposed to be constantly watching in regard to the position of women.

Baum: Oh yes. But that still doesn't strike me as quite the same thing as this idea of erasing all distinctions.

McLaughlin: Well, the Woman's Party was the extreme and they would go into that.

Brewer: Did you have many Lucy Stoners in the Civic League?

McLaughlin: I think, probably, that type of person was gone by that time. Every once in a while you run across this in San Francisco, I think that we can say that women did not have to fight for recognition as hard in California as they did in the East. Since they did not have to fight as long, they got along with men more easily and with less friction here than they did in the East. There was a woman physician who came to San Francisco about thirty years ago. Her husband was a very brilliant physician and she, too. She always has used her own name. It is said--they had twin sons--and one was brought up with her name as a surname and one was brought up with the father's. (Laughter) Finally this became too difficult for them. But she's always carried her own name.

This man Mr. L.R. Kegan, with Zellerbach--his wife goes by her professional name.

Brewer: Oh, Adrienne Koch, his wife.

Baum: I don't think that's unusual if you have a professional name already.

McLaughlin: I imagine she had it before she married Mr. Kegan.

Brewer: Yes, she kept her name because of scholarly, professional reasons.

McLaughlin: Those are the only two I can think of.

Brewer: When we were talking I was thinking that among the women's suffrage people I've talked to in the East, Miss Fola La Follette--these are really good friends of mine who explained their positions--was Mrs. George Middleton; Ruth Pickering--she still gets her mail that way--she's been Mrs. Amos Pinchot for nearly fifty years; and Margaret Burnham.

McLaughlin: Wasn't Mrs. Pinchot Woman's Party?

Brewer: Yes. Oh, that's Mrs. Gifford Pinchot probably, this is her sister-in-law. Then Margaret Burnham was married to Albert De Silver of the American Civil Liberties Union and then she was married to Carlo Tresca.

McLaughlin: I think there was less Stonerism in California than there was in the East. Women physicians occasionally carried it on. This would be for professional reasons. There was a delightful woman physician who carried on the name for years. When she retired from her profession she just adopted her husband's name. I met her on the street and I said, "Dr." and she said, "I'm Mrs. O'Connor, Mrs. McLaughlin." (Laughter) I said, "You've put on that hat, have you?" She said, "Considering that I'm home and just living a life of leisure and we're together so much, this is the natural way to do it."

Baum: These ladies who maintained their maiden names, did they seem to behave differently than those who didn't?

Brewer: All of them were dear devoted wives. You wouldn't think that they were far out except that they had strong, strong opinions on this. I don't think that it's far out, myself, to have strong opinions for women's rights. They have a strong feeling of identity.

McLaughlin: Strong feeling of identity reminds me that the man from the Near East this morning said that he'd gone over the University catalogue and he'd never been in an institution where there were so many women carefully educated and so few of them on the faculty as here. He said he considered it utterly extraordinary. I almost clapped.

But all those youngsters really remained indifferent. I was probably the only person in the [summer session] class who cared.

Work of the California Civic League; Women's Rights and Family Welfare

Baum: You say that the California Civic League had as one of their interests women's rights?

McLaughlin: That was their chief interest when they started.

Baum: And then their other interest was in relation to women and the family. That seems like two different groups of women might be working on this. At least that your Woman's Party women weren't in control.

McLaughlin: In the beginning the League worked on lifting either the habit or the laws that discriminated against women. They got themselves on juries. There were a great many more legal discriminations against women or legal usages that they worked on very hard. There were only a certain number of those. As their membership increased and younger women came on the board of directors, you got people like Amy Steinhart who was dedicated to working in education. She had started with the A.A.U.W. Then she got to the point where it had to go into the legislature and the A.A.U.W. didn't work on that. So it was a combination of the League and the A.A.U.W. and finally just the League.

Dr. Brown was perfectly happy with these other people. These brilliant women had been on the board.

Baum: This second group sounds like interest in the public welfare--in the subjects that particularly concerned women and that men often didn't notice.

McLaughlin: In the family. Of course, they were working constantly on committees in regard to social welfare.

Baum: I read somewhere that one of the first things the women worked on was widow's pensions.

McLaughlin: This was for broken families, widows and children. I think this was one of the things that was done

McLaughlin: in the [Hiram] Johnson administration before women had suffrage. I think this is true. But women worked to sustain it and also various ramifications that had come from the dependent child.

Community Property - The Robbins Case

Miss Laughlin picked up the legal aspects of women's position in California. What they took as a first cause I can't tell you. But they were trying to lift women out of the legal discrimination against women. The Johnson group worked very hard for protection of women in industry. The militant left of the women didn't believe in it. Gail Laughlin worked with them on women having the right to be jurors, all of that sort of thing.

We had in California, as certain states did have, a community property law. This was here as a result of the Spanish Salic law. California had Salic laws with regard to the relation of woman. She was married to the property. The Spanish law gave women the right to half of it. That had been eroded by the decisions of the courts. In the courts, of course, there was no belief in women having right to half of the estate.

The Civic League went to every legislature with a program; and they generally got their bills through. There was a great fight on the community property bill, as you can imagine, principally led by the banks and the title insurance companies. Whatever they tried to do was probably theoretical. Finally there was a case that was carried to the Attorney-General. I think the case was the Blum Case. Somebody who knows law better than I do would have to tell you why it was done that way.

The R.D. Robbins Estate of Suisun went in as amicus curiae. They did a very fine little paper on the question of these laws--the Salic

McLaughlin: laws--that really prevailed in California. This was finally settled by the United States Attorney General, who was I think at that time, Cummings. It was during the Coolidge Administration. The assistant in that office was a woman lawyer from California. In the meantime the income tax law had come in. Then, community property was clutched to their breasts.

That was a very fine brief put in by the Robbins family. I would have no hesitancy in saying it was a perfectly sincere belief. Of course, Mrs. Robbins had really been a wonderful helpmate and she deserved half of that estate. There would be no question. She sat in the ranch house up there in Suisun, a gentlewoman, while he had all this money. They were friends of ours. Well, it was an estate of nine million dollars and it was settled. I don't have to tell you how much men love it now.

Baum: It established a community property law.

McLaughlin: This is my recollection of it. Some attorney might give you an entirely different point of view. I think that I have a copy of that brief. Mrs. Robbins and her daughters were great friends of ours--my sister and me. And we were very devoted to them all. I think that it was a completely sincere effort on everybody's part because if anybody had a right to be considered who helped build an estate, it was a woman who lived in a little country town all those years. She was a wonderful helpmate.

Baum: Were you in touch with the Robbins family while the case was going on?

McLaughlin: We were right there in Washington when it happened. Floyd Robbins was putting his car at our disposal all the time. We didn't like him but we loved the rest of them.

Anita Whitney, President of the California Civic League

Baum: How about Anita Whitney? She was in the California Civic League.

McLaughlin: This will be just connected with what I learned from the women who established the California Civic League. Anita Whitney was so difficult to work with that the San Francisco Center, which was the tail that wagged the dog, made Anita president of the California Civic League, which was small and didn't amount to very much. This merged into the National League of Women Voters. But by that time Miss Whitney was notorious.

There was a brother and sister who lived in Oakland that had dedicated themselves and their money to helping in social work. They were devoted friends of the Meyers, of Miss Felton, and of Anita Whitney. Anita Whitney's family was one of the old families of California. I think her granduncle was Stephen Field who was on the Supreme Court of the United States. The Whitney family was one of the old Oakland families, highly respected. These friends were discussing Anita at the time of her excitement. Anita Whitney had studied by herself the social situation. It had made her have violently leftist ideas. Their darling Kitty (Katharine Felton)--and Anita Whitney would never compromise--was a born compromiser. There couldn't have been a better summing up of the two of them.

There was this case, I think, before we got into the First World War, about syndicalism. I suppose really what they had in mind was the I.W.W. You probably know the case. Anita Whitney was down in Emeryville with a group of the more extreme type of people that were interested in causes at that time. It was claimed at that time that a red flag was put over our flag. These things I don't know. But she was attacked under the syndicalism law. Her defender was Jack Neylan.

McLaughlin: The day she was going to be sentenced it was suggested that while I had never worked with her that I would go with some of the members of the California Civic League just to show that she had friends in the court. That experience stands out very strongly in my mind. I had never been in court--in that kind of a court. As Miss Whitney came in, here were the sweepings of the streets of Oakland--people that had been arrested, all of whom were in arraignment against the way we handled things. A boy obviously well-bred had been caught up some place. Or a poor little Mexican who didn't know anything of what they were talking about. It was dramatic because the judge was the son of a man in Emeryville. Miss Whitney had been very active closing the race course.

She had been in jail all night. She had a chartreuse dress on and a hat with pansies on it and had managed to get herself looking nicely, with this intense sense of the New England martyr. It was written all over her face. "Thank God, you've let me live for this moment!" This was my judgment about it. It may be all wrong. I glanced around and I saw her poor brother. I knew him slightly. He looked like he was hoping the ground would open up. And she was sentenced.

Then the question came what they were going to do with her. There I did have another insider--a great friend of mine had been asked by the Governor to spend the night with him and his wife. They'd gone to school together or there was some close connection. That was the night, unfortunately for Governor Young, he had to decide what he was going to do with Anita Whitney.

Governor Young was a very fine person. He had been a teacher of high school in San Francisco. He had trained so many of the men from the outlying counties who had come to San Francisco to get a high school education. He was very sincere and very conscientious. My friend said he just paced the floor all night. I think one of the reasons--I don't know that this affected him--that she never went to jail was that they didn't dare send her over to the women's jail at San Quention because she would have just led a riot. (Laughter) Let's take it for granted that it was

McLaughlin: a sincere decision on his part to feel that Miss Whitney was not anybody that was really a traitor to the United States. At any rate she never went to jail. Finally, I don't know just exactly what was done, but Neylan took care of the situation.

Baum: I think Neylan explains in his interview how it was a hard decision for him to take the case since he was in opposition to her point of view.

McLaughlin: Yes, but at that time he was really a great person. He knew what poverty was. He knew what conditions were.

She never compromised. She kept right on working with the people that she was devoted to until she died. She tried righting wrongs only she didn't get very far. Her darling Kitty, who would compromise, was a political statesman.

Baum: Miss Whitney worked more on political things than Miss Felton.

McLaughlin: No, Miss Whitney felt that certain things were outrageous and she was going to do something about it and right now. She wasn't going to hide her beliefs in the process of doing it. She chose working on the leftist side. But I don't know if her left would be very left now or not. (Laughter) I think she was a graduate of here.

I had very little personal dealings with her. She kept right on doing the things that she thought ought to be done. And, of course, those of us who live in the modern era have no conception of how slowly things went in those days.

Baum: Did she remain in the California Civic League?

McLaughlin: No.

The Public Dance Hall Committee

Brewer: What was the Public Dance Hall Committee?

McLaughlin: It was a committee from the League of Women Voters. In the beginning we got the money from individual donors. Then it was under the Chest, and then it was one of the organizations that the Chest got the city to take over. I don't know what has happened to it now. They did have a good woman doing their work, but whether they still have or not I don't know.

Brewer: What were the immediate reasons for its organization?

McLaughlin: The immediate reason was that during the First World War there were stories about the boys not having a chance for decent recreation. They naturally went into the dance halls. The dance halls had no real supervision other than policemen keeping eyes on them. After years of work it was finally decided they needed some way to keep the minors out. Georgiana Carden will have to give you the steps about it. Or Dr. Mary E. Layman, Dr. Layman was on that committee two years. Georgiana Carden was the last director.*

Brewer: Wasn't Miss Mosgrove on that?

McLaughlin: Yes. She was director at one time. Also, Mrs. Black and her sister, Lucille Wollenberg were directors at one time or another. They had exceptional directors.

Brewer: And what was Miss Delany's function?

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*Dr. Brewer later conducted a tape-recorded interview with Miss Georgiana Carden on the subject of the Public Dance Hall Committee. The papers of the Public Dance Hall Committee were given to the Bancroft Library by Miss Carden, and they are available with her interview. A second interview was recorded on Miss Carden's subsequent work with the children of migratory laborers.

McLaughlin: She was chairman. The reason I can't tell you about these things is that I finally discovered there was only one thing for me to do and that was to stay out of it because Miss Delany grew quite difficult. If there was anything she wanted me to do for her I'd do it. But I stayed off. This Miss Delany had a fierce temper.

Baum: A clash of personalities. (Laughter)

Brewer: Mrs. McLaughlin doesn't have an Irish temper. (Laughter)

McLaughlin: Basically the Public Dance Hall Committee was to keep minors out of the halls. Miss Delany chose the women to supervise the dance halls. They were paid by the men.

Baum: Was this a plan to prevent juvenile delinquency?

McLaughlin: It started during the First World War to try to make the dance halls clean. The real problem there was to keep minor girls out of the dance halls and then to do something constructive with them afterwards.

Baum: I'll tell you what I was interested in. Mary Ellen Leary* was telling me that the League's Public Dance Hall Committee sounds like a small thing, but that actually it was in close contact with the police.

McLaughlin: Yes. After various efforts as to the proper way to handle the public dance halls, it was realized that legally we could keep the minors out of the dance halls. This was done by a plan that on paper seemed perfectly ridiculous, but it worked. The League of Women Voters collected the money in the beginning for their chief supervisor. Later that amount was taken over by the Chest.

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*Mary Ellen Leary, former political editor of the San Francisco Daily News, was consulted on women who had been important in the development of San Francisco civic life.

McLaughlin: The chief supervisor chose the supervisors of the separate dance halls. Now this is what sounds crazy--and the operators of the halls paid those supervisors. When you see this on paper, it looks ridiculous, but it worked.

Then the whole thing was under the close attention of the Police Commission. The chief supervisor was in constant touch with the Police Commission. I don't know whether she wore a badge or whether she didn't. At any rate, she was in very close contact with the police.

Baum: Now this was extra-official? It was not part of the Police Department officially?

McLaughlin: Our contact with the police was very official and very close. And it was very satisfactory. No group ever worked for them with the great satisfaction that we did. They were so grateful to be able to work with a group of women that never asked for any personal favor--women who just worked on principle.

The chief during the major part of the time was Quinn who was especially fine in his cooperation.

After years of operating successfully this way, the Chest felt, after reading the plan of it, that it was nothing for them to support, which was really very stupid. So the whole thing was eventually turned over to the Police Commission. The first woman that they chose was good.

Baum: What was Miss Carden's role?

McLaughlin: She was the supervisor.

Baum: She was the supervisor when it was not affiliated with the Police Department?

McLaughlin: You don't say "affiliated." It was affiliated but it was not official. I don't know, this is what you would have to find out from her, if there was ever anything passed in the Board of Supervisor's line. The Police Commission cooperated in every way.

McLaughlin: We tried one time to have it put into an ordinance, but we were defeated there by very powerful political forces.

Baum: It seems that keeping minors out of dance halls is a very small thing. However, I understand from police women of that period that this was a very significant factor. I don't think it would be now but I wondered what role the dance hall...

McLaughlin: I'll tell you, the same thing should be done socially for the 17-year-olds. There are a lot of these youngsters. It is a social problem that people very definitely know about. Girls just out of high school come to San Francisco for jobs. They float around in these saloons, I don't know what they are, scattered around town. There should be a set up at the present time to get those girls out of those places. One way to do it would be just exactly what we did.

We had an ordinance that was all ready to go to the Board of Supervisors in regard to our dance hall. The man who owned one of the big dance halls was a most powerful political figure in San Francisco, Herbert Fleishhacker, and he killed it. He killed it and we did not get the ordinance.

Baum: Was that because he owned a dance hall and he did not want it?

McLaughlin: He rented out. He owned the property and the dance hall rented it from him, the biggest dance hall. That is what happened.

Baum: Were the dance halls sort of a center for vice?

McLaughlin: Alicia Mosgrove who worked with the group for Miss Elkus long before the First World War, got liquor out of the dance halls. It is a floating population, you see. Girls are naturally attracted by the lights and the good music and the rest of it.

McLaughlin: There were two kinds of dance halls:

1) the ordinary kind

2) the kind where the girls who danced were under pay to that hall.

Baum: Taxi dance halls?

McLaughlin: Yes. I think that they were finally eliminated. Now, Miss Carden at one time was the state superintendent in regard to school attendance in the counties; she has done some very interesting work. She was the first person who got a bill through the legislature in regard to migrant children. But this thing about keeping the minors out was a very important thing. It is a place where vice finds a place, an easy spot. Miss Carden even at one time got some money from Max Rosenberg and set up attractive little apartments for these girls to live in.

At one time the Dance Hall Committee rented a house and started a club for them, and they lived in it. Various experiments were tried.

Baum: These were girls they were trying to rehabilitate, I suppose.

McLaughlin: All the girls in those dance halls were not bad girls of the world. It is true though that from all the small towns up and down the coast there finally evolved a group of girls that were either prostitutes or on their way. The situation was kept as clean as possible. And if the supervisor could prove that the girls were not of age, then she would take them home. Sometimes she would work with them. So the committee had a real position.

Baum: This ran into the thirties, didn't it?

McLaughlin: I should say that it did. The one thing that I should comment is that with one exception we always had a high grade of supervisors. Alicia Mosgrove was supervisor, Ernestine Black, her sister Lucille Wollenberg, then I will skip the next one because I have really forgotten her name. Then there was Miss Carden. It took an exceptional woman.

Baum: Was this a volunteer position or was this a paid one?

McLaughlin: No, it was provided for. As I said, the League collected the money for their salary in the beginning. Then the Chest took it over.

Baum: They wanted it regulatory, I suppose, rather than charitable.

McLaughlin: Oh, it was very regular. It kept recreation decent, commercial recreation. You know there has never been any substitute for this commercial recreation because they have better music and better lights and so forth. You just have to face these things.

The committee met every so often to make policy. There was frequently a special problem that had to be met. They would work for a long time on the policy to get the thing incorporated and be under the Police Commission and so forth. There still could be cooperation. This I will never forget because we were to appear before the Board of Supervisors; Mr. Roach was to present it and he was not there. Mr. Roach was one of the great lawyers of San Francisco but he was never a Police Commissioner. This will just show you what you go through when you do work like this.

Baum: He thought it was not that important?

McLaughlin: He knew that it was important and meant to come. I helped carry it. I am very glad that I did not know that he was not going to be there because you know that I would not have been able to sleep the whole night before because this was something vital. But when you are up against it, I think you can practically do a better job. We did not get it passed because if he had been there it would have meant that the Commissioner was for it. So he did the next time I saw him the only thing that any man could do. He said, "Mrs. McLaughlin, I understand that you were superb."

I said, "Now Mr. Roach, I am going to be mean and tell you that I went home and had a heart attack." He had been called off.

Baum: You think that he had been called off?

McLaughlin: Oh, yes. He would not have failed us.

Baum: But that is worse than if he had forgotten or something.

McLaughlin: He couldn't help himself. Fleishhacker called him off.

Baum: I guess that Fleishhacker had a lot of power.

McLaughlin: He ran the town. Now there is a name you want?

Baum: Miss Leary had talked to a woman who was on the police force before 1937, I think.

McLaughlin: I tell you, there was a Catherine Sullivan who was the biggest liar who ever was and she was the only policewoman for a long time. Yet, we sat at her feet and believed everything that she said but she was an awful fool. At any rate, she could not tell the truth.

Baum: No, that was not it. This woman's name was Genevieve Bayruther. This policewoman said that there was a whole group of lay women that were on the Dance Hall Committee and that if something bad really came up in the police department, they would call these women and they could sort of organize a force that would move in and in that way they did a lot in preventing vice in other ways than the dance halls.

McLaughlin: You could usually depend on them too. The supervisor was no good, that once. Of course, we were entering a campaign and there was a certain commotion, the men, i.e. the owners, were taking advantage of that situation. The supervisor said that nothing could be done about it. The Committee considered this and, finally, I don't know why I happened to be the one because we all did different things at different times. There was always a chairman. I went to the police with this woman who said that she could not get a job done. I said, "Now, Mr. Roach, we are up against this situation. It comes to us that because of the campaign that the police will not rule. The committee does not believe this." He said, "It is not true."

McLaughlin: He turned to her and said, "It is not true. We intend in every way to oppose the men." Then he turned to me and said, "And I just want to say that I expect you to be smart. Don't call on me unless you have to, but if you do, I am here and I will fight."

That was very good advice. The men were quieted right down. He said, "I will see that the situation is handled from our end quietly." And they were all told to pipe down, I suppose. But the chief could walk in on them. I don't know, but it worked!

Baum: I don't understand what the situation was exactly? Were these the dance hall men?

McLaughlin: The men that owned the dance halls were trying to take advantage and let more people slip in.

Baum: I see because there was a campaign on they thought that everything would be kept quiet and they would be able to break the laws or the rules.

McLaughlin: And they could defy the supervisor. They were not allowed too, though. He was succeeded by DeLay, the man who is the present head of the University of San Francisco. I never had any contact with DeLay that amounted to anything. But Quinn had great admiration for him.

Baum: What did you think of Quinn?

McLaughlin: I think Quinn was a very fine Chief, very fine man. The Police Commission was good with one exception. Mr. Roach was the greatest trial lawyer now in California. When I say that, he never lost a case. If he stepped in and tried a case, he won. He was a great lawyer. It was Sullivan, Sullivan and Roach. The first thing that they did was win the first personal injury case: California against the Southern Pacific.

Baum: That was a great triumph.

McLaughlin: It was a great triumph! He was a very great lawyer. He was publicly devoted to Jim Rolph. He stayed on that commission. I presume that

McLaughlin: they ran the city a little better than it wanted to be run, a good deal better.

One of the members of that board was not so fine as the others but he is dead. What is the use of dragging that thing out? The rest were very fine people, but he was terrible.

Every once in awhile a woman gets a new view on a man's point of view. I presume that Mr. Roach really cared too much for Mr. Rolph. He really sacrificed too much for him, I think.

Father Monihan [Wm. J. Monihan, S.J.] was discussing this with me. You know he is the librarian over there at the University of San Francisco. He said, "Oh, in talking with Mr. Roach, I realized how devoted he was to that policeman. Probably, he did not discipline as much as people would have liked." All I know is that he was a fine Chief and never failed us. None of them did. They failed us in that we did not get this thing permanently put into the charter of San Francisco.

The woman that was put in there after the police took it over was a high grade woman and when there was a situation that she did not like, we were called together. Evidently it boosted her morale. I don't know how much the committee hung together after that. Just at the time that the Chest took the money away Miss Carden was called to stay with her brother whose wife had died.

You see there was not any drink, as I told you; that had been taken out.

Baum: And that was enforced?

McLaughlin: That was enforced. I suppose that they break it every once in a while. What we went through when we first started in! The Chief then was O'Brian. His cousin ran one of these taxi halls. You know, there was a real situation there.

Baum: O'Brian, you say, was a problem?

McLaughlin: He was just a typical Irish cop, not very outstanding.

Baum: How did he get replaced? Were you women in on that at all?

McLaughlin: I don't know. But you have probably seen somewhere in the papers that there was a frightful episode. It was a moral episode with a gang of thugs seizing on some girls. The thing was brought to trial. I think maybe the taxi halls closed at that time. It may have been. Perhaps Georgiana [Carden] knows better.

The Dance Hall Committee could be under fire, you see. We were under great fire at that time because those boys had left the taxi dance, I think because the girls had something. There was sort of a remote connection.

Baum: Did the committee work on any kind of court? Women's court, or juvenile court arrangements...

McLaughlin: As you know, the committee did not do that.

Early Forum Program of the San Francisco League of Women Voters

Baum: I have heard that the League of Women Voters had quite a speakers' program. What would they do for that?

McLaughlin: What they had was a great forum program. The League of Women Voters could present an audience as great as the Commonwealth Club and we got the same people--all during and before the First World War. They worked out a forum and I can remember leaving our office and saying to my cousin, "I'm going to see Phelan and Shortridge tonight." And she said, "You're crazy, they won't come together." I said, "But they are." In other words, this group of very smart women had wonderful programs and forums. Then along came the First World War and we had every speaker that the Commonwealth Club had. We had 2,500 members. We ran all types of programs.

McLaughlin: We could turn out an audience for these people and you'd get people who you could turn out an audience for. We had 1,000 people for Hoover. We had over 1,000 people for the Queen of Belgium or for Hiram Johnson.

Baum: Were these people your members or were they the public?

McLaughlin: We only had 2,500 members and then of course the public would pay a little bit more.

Baum: It was open to the public though.

McLaughlin: It was a great educational thing.

Then, after we'd been in the National League for a while, every once in a while in an organization there would come a time when the women were very much impressed by the national organization. We'd done so much more than the National, of course. I had the greatest respect for Miss Shearer and for Mrs. Maude Wood Parks. But we'd actually done so much. The National League didn't like the idea of the open forum. They were incredibly stupid.

We ran these forums for years. Then there came along a couple of presidents who wanted to do what the National said. They wanted every member to work. We've never been able to bring the membership back. You can't bring them back if you don't have the speakers. You can't have the speakers until you have the audience.

Baum: I can't see why they couldn't have the speakers and every member a working member.

McLaughlin: It doesn't work that way. We had committees going all the time. We even had a garbage committee. I came across a garbage report the other day. The troubles today are the same. It was exceedingly well done and several times we had an agreement with the city. We had working committees.

But the great change was from the open forum. Within ten years they had changed from the open forum. We ran both an open forum and the groups that were working on some city problem. We did

McLaughlin: both things. During all this period the National League of Women Voters spread very gradually through California. Now it's every place.

Long Study and Preparation Policy of the League of Women Voters

Baum: They do good work now.

McLaughlin: Yes. They go to the legislature every year. They had to vote on taking a part. Then when they get their findings they go to a state meeting, then it's investigated. It takes some time for them to work up to getting it before the legislature. Then when they go to the legislature they're prepared with their facts.

Then they take on the National, too. Theoretically, the local group takes it to the National. Actually, no, it doesn't always work that way. They have great respect--legislators really respect the League. They don't allow anybody to appear that isn't ready with their stuff-facts.

Recently, in San Francisco, the Library Committee went down to see Mr. Malone, who is on the Library Board. They were talking to him about what they were studying. I watched for a while and I said to the president, "Do you mind if I say something? Mr. Malone, I want to be sure when we leave here that you know exactly what the position is." He said, "I think I do." I said, "No, you're laughing now, that proves you don't. You know, we can't do a thing for you this year." He looked perfectly blank. I said, "The process is that the membership can vote for a certain study, then that is studied for a year, then that is reported to the membership and they vote on it." I said, "You're just in between times." I knew he didn't understand. He looked at me a little incredulously. I said, "Wait a second, do you remember how Andy Gallagher got the Federated Clubs so angry?"

McLaughlin: He said, "Well, I remember. He made them awfully angry." A woman got up and said, "I represent forty thousand women." Andy turned his head and said, "How many of them know you're here?" I said, "Do you see the difference?" He said, "If we have to wait a year, all right. I understand now." I said, "The membership may not really care a great deal but they have to be informed. It was all brought out in an open meeting. And no movement is made until it's studied. It's slow, but it's sure. That's why they have respect. That's the basis of it.

Baum: I guess they limit the number of things they undertake, too, so that they can do well what they do. Also they try to keep non-partisan.

McLaughlin: Absolutely. If they didn't, all of the candidates would attack them. They even have limitations; the president can't appear ever on a partisan thing.

Baum: Not while she's an active member?

McLaughlin: I think it's when you're on the Board of Directors or it may be if you're an officer, you can't be partisan.

Baum: It sounds like the Hatch Act.

McLaughlin: It taught us a great deal. You commit your organization.

Example: Licensing of Social Workers

Brewer: Do you remember Archbishop Hanna?

McLaughlin: Archbishop Hanna was a liberal in the Church. He had very cordial connections with anybody in San Francisco. The Church was much better off with him there than when he was succeeded by Mitty who was a reactionary. He was a perfectly loyal churchman, but he accepted people in the community if they were good for the community.

McLaughlin: He was very kind in handling people. His method was not yes or no.

For instance, the League of Women Voters, with too little preparation, went to the legislature once to have social workers licensed as teachers were. If that had been done before the depression it would have been very much better for everybody--to have trained people as social workers. But we went with too little preparation.

Bea Stern was up at the legislature representing the League. She telephoned and said I was to see the Archbishop and tell him. Well, you can't tell a person that it's not going to do any good. So I went to see the Archbishop.

A little woman at the door said, "You know this is a holy day." She let me in. The Archbishop came and said, "This is one of the things I leave to Mr. McEnerney. You go down to see him. But always come and see me about anything."

I went down to Mr. McEnerney and I walked in. He said, "You're a disgrace to your father." I said, "Mr. McEnerney, I'm sorry. I didn't ask to come down here. His Excellency sent me." He said, "Do you want me to say no?" (Laughter) I said, "This is a little hard on me, but if that's your answer I will tell our lobbyist." "I reiterate, I knew your father and he wouldn't want you to be doing things like this." I said, "Maybe that's so, but maybe if he hadn't taken me to political rallies and wasn't interested in politics, maybe I wouldn't be doing it."

Baum: You were just trying to get licensing for social workers. Was this the disgraceful thing you were doing?

McLaughlin: As I say, it hadn't been handled right. When you're going to do a thing like this it takes a whole group of people all ready at work. It should have taken four years to prepare for it. It was right. The idea was right.

You can see how the Catholic Church would feel. Most people's social work was not any good.

McLaughlin: I told you, the Jewish social work agency was the only one ready for the change. If you're going to go into a campaign, get ready for it. We weren't ready for it. He felt that what was a disgrace was that I was interested in working for something in the legislature. He thought the disgrace was there.

Baum: Ladies should keep out of politics.

McLaughlin: I presume so.

Brewer: This wasn't your very last visit with Mr. McEnerney, was it?

McLaughlin: (Laughter) It was awfully funny. He looked like Cato with a stiff collar on.

Brewer: Did he die shortly after this?

McLaughlin: No, he lived a long time after that. What he said was perfectly true. I haven't given you an illustration of Hanna. He wouldn't say no to me.

You can't imagine how funny it was. You see, my father wore these starched shirts, with these wing collars, and there he was sitting up there. I didn't know anything about his knowing my father. I was terribly startled to be told it was a disgrace. It was Mr. McEnerney's job to see that that bill was killed and it was killed.

The League of Women Voters has never had very much power. We have had the kind of power that you can't use. You have a great deal of respect and occasionally you get a triumph. You get something through. For example, as we did very gradually on education. Then there is always somebody there on education to see what is happening each year when all these questions come up. The same way with the library.

Efforts to Speed-Up Work of League of Women Voters; Work of Mrs. Carolyn Charles and Mrs. Bernice May

Baum: I want to ask you about a San Francisco League president, Mrs. Allan Charles; she is a younger woman, isn't she?

McLaughlin: Yes, she is just sixty. I woke up in Italy and thought to myself, "Ye Gods! I have a daughter sixty!" She and Carolyn were the same age.

I can not tell what Carolyn's first civic work was. Also when she was first married she was busy with the house and the children. I don't know if I even knew her before she went on the League of Women Voters. She became president during a very difficult time for the League. I think that I have explained that it is recognized that the value of the League is that it takes a subject and studies it very carefully before it goes on record for anything. All of this is submitted to the membership.

The time when Carolyn Charles was the president of the San Francisco League, there was a group in the League of Women Voters, in fact in the Berkeley League principally, who disliked the method of slowing up action. They felt that the research could be done; they were in favor of the Board going on record, to let them do it locally rather than statewide. This was jealousy, treason as far as some of us were concerned. Mrs. Bernice May was the state president at the time. One of the people who worked very hard on this was a fine woman who died [Llewellyn McMahon], who was a lawyer with the State Chamber of Commerce. The action on this proposal was postponed at the convention where it was brought up. Then a committee was set up for a year, after which it was finally beaten. Carolyn showed herself to be a person of great and astute ability, just with character plus. Everything that she did was done with extreme intelligence and she just had a warm understanding of human beings. Her warm understanding was not truly appreciated by her enemies.

Baum: I take it that there was a danger of a split in the League?

McLaughlin: We were terribly upset that year. The reason that we went down to Asilomar after we went to the convention was to have a caucus. They were going to come into the caucus even though they were our best enemies. There was a big fight.

Baum: I take it that you and Carolyn were in favor of maintaining the membership vote?

McLaughlin: Yes, it was essential.

Baum: It was the Berkeley membership who wanted some way of quicker action?

McLaughlin: Primarily. They knew this had all been done and it was very hard on them. I think that we lost some very brilliant people.

Baum: Did people leave the League then?

McLaughlin: I think that it is very likely that some did. Not anybody from San Francisco but I think that some of them did. Of course, there is always a change of workers. People work for a period of time and then something may call them off.

During that League convention, the State President, Mrs. May, was an exceedingly hard working person with a real understanding of the problems and was in a very hard position because the people in the Berkeley League at that time were a highly trained group of women who became specialists in the various phases that the League was interested in. Also in policy and all modern phases. Mrs. W.W. Douglas was the chairman of International Relations over the years and did really a very scholarly piece of work for it.

The other chairman, I really ought to be able to remember. Every one of these women became specialists on one of the modern theories in regard to better living for the average person. They seemed to us in some of the other Leagues a little impatient with the slowness with which the League works and the demand of the League

McLaughlin: that they should prepare a study before there was action. At one time, it seemed to us in the San Francisco League that they wanted to change the very thing that we thought made the League. That is, there was no legislative work on any problem without first studying it for a year and then working on it locally until there was a thorough understanding and it had been submitted to the entire membership. This is slow enough in a town or a city, but when a thing has to go through that and then be taken to the state League, it is even slower. These women felt that the crying needs of the public were so great that it should be left to the executive committee.

Now I may have simplified this too much. The women who were active in this may deny this now, but this is what the line-up seemed to be.

Baum: That is how it looked to you San Francisco women, is that right?

McLaughlin: There was a League meeting at Santa Monica at which they worked to put this over. There were enough people to vote for postponement for a year. Mrs. May had been president for a year and she was president during this very hard year. There was a careful working on this problem. Carolyn Charles was president of the San Francisco League. There was a committee that worked for one whole year on--I doubt that they suggested any changes in the League's system--but they worked on strategy, not break the state League apart but really carry the thing that seemed absolutely basic.

Carolyn did a superb job. Her committee was headed by the two best people on the committee--Mrs. Harold Turner and Mrs. McMahon who was secretary, I think, of the California Chamber of Commerce. She also was a lawyer. It was a very hard year for Mrs. May because both sides felt that she favored the other side. That convention was a terrifically hard convention because for us--I mean everyone, this was do or die. It was very hard on Mrs. May. She carried it through from a parlimentary standpoint with firmness and as much grace as possible under the circumstances.

McLaughlin: Carolyn was terribly smart. Wherever she was, she could hold a caucus and she would invite everyone around to come and join her. Of course, this made her opposed. But she did an outstanding piece of work. When it comes to Mrs. May, I think, we all can say that she was a very fair person. This you never forget because it was felt so deeply that the League's thing was in its care and study of the facts, that the membership had all the chance in the world to know or object or be persuaded. She did a superb job of it.

Baum: Was the problem perhaps that a lot of the Berkeley women might have been professionally trained and wanted to work faster than the average lay woman would?

McLaughlin: I think it was the first time that any of the faculty wives had moved into the League. It was the first time that such highly trained women had moved into the League.

Baum: It certainly sounded as if many of the women that you had in there for years as leaders were highly trained women.

McLaughlin: They stood together on this matter. They felt that the needs of the community were so great. As I say, we will never forget any of that convention because so much depended on it. Some of the Berkeley people were in agreement and saw the point, but not many of them did. They were very brilliant and very heady and they carried people along with them. When it was all over, a great friend of mine who had made a profession of being irritated came from, she was there from the Marysville League, and she walked up to Carolyn Charles and she said, "Well, you have done it. Congratulations! Is it true that you went through Scripps Hall and told everybody last night when they could turn over?" And Carolyn burst into tears. She was so tired and everybody was saying something funny. It just was too much for her. But it was a great time and Mrs. May covered herself with glory.

Mr. and Mrs. Allan E. Charles

Baum: Do you know what Mrs. Charles's background is?

McLaughlin: Carolyn Charles came from a nice family in Stockton. Her father was a woolman. Well, she has a sister, and, I think, only one brother.

Baum: Do you know what her family name was?

McLaughlin: Moore, but I don't know her father's initials. She went to Stanford. I say '27. She was in my daughter's class who went to Vassar and then came here, you see. She majored in mathematics and French, I think. She was a leader in college, but what she did I cannot remember.

She married Allan Charles, also a graduate of Stanford and a trained lawyer. I think he graduated from the Stanford Law School. He was in Mr. Lillich's office, Ira Lillich, which is one of the fine firms.

There are two girls, two daughters. Allan Charles has worked with the Young Republicans. He was on the Civil Service Commission. He was on the Department of Social Welfare with Ruth Turner and Mrs. Prince. He has done various other things. At the present time he is on the Rapid Transit Committee. He has made as fine a reputation for himself as any man of his age. He was a maritime lawyer. He has pleaded several cases before the Supreme Court. So you can see that he is really very much of a trained person.

After her League days, Carolyn Charles has worked hard for the Republican Party, so has Allan. Carolyn knows how to run a campaign. There is no doubt that she is the one mostly responsible for getting Judge Drew reelected when he was under attack.

Baum: Was she satisfied with Mayor Christopher?

McLaughlin: I don't know. Most of us lived and learned that Christopher was a better man than you ever

McLaughlin: suspected. I think he was as good a man as we ever had. He was so much better than his predecessors for a long time that it is remarkable. You would never believe it but he was. He was awfully fair with the Board of Education. The pressure that was brought on him when they were having difficulties with the Board of Education when an appointment came, he put on that Board one of the best liberals in San Francisco. The pressure on him must have been terrific but he did it.

Christopher was a very good man and I think that Carolyn thought so but this is the type of thing that you have to be careful about. You don't quote people unless you are sure, but I think that she thought that he was a very good man.

Baum: Of course, she knew him from the Board of Education.

McLaughlin: Well, he put her on the Board of Health. He put Allan on various things. Allan was on, has really served the city as I told you.

I don't know who was the mayor when Mrs. Prince and Ruth Turner worked so hard to create a Department of Social Welfare. Allan worked with them. He is now on the Bay Area Rapid Transit Commission. Somewhere along the line, what mayor appointed him, I don't know but he was on the Civil Service Commission. He did a very good job.

Allan is a straight Republican, I think. Allan is really a Republican. There is an old family friendship with Mr. Hoover and that sort of thing down at Stanford.

I think there is one paragraph that I ought to put in about Carolyn. Through all her community work which she has done so superbly, still she knows where the focal point of her life is which is in her family. She has a great devotion as a wife and a mother. She has really a very fine understanding that she does not sacrifice to whatever she is doing in the community. Furthermore she has kept a real sense of proportion to all her work. She is a very remarkable woman.

Baum: I remember we remarked that many of those former women's rights leaders did not have families, while most of them now do and have to squeeze in their community work.

McLaughlin: That is one of the reasons why women of this type do not go into politics. Some of them with families do, but Carolyn was faced definitely with a choice and she said that she definitely could not do it.

Baum: She had an opportunity to go into politics?

McLaughlin: They definitely wanted her to run for some office, but she said that it was impossible for her.

The League Convention was Carolyn Charles' biggest thing I think up until that time. Now you know that she is more involved than any one woman in San Francisco. She is on the Board of Trustees at Stanford; she was on the Board of the Health Department; she is on the Board of the Presbyterian Center, I think; she is on the Rosenberg Board. She is probably expert on the new social tools-auxiliaries. She is the person who has organized auxiliaries so that she has a perfect technique currently that works.

This is a remarkable method. It brings people with a vague interest into the organization. They find out if they just want to do no work and just be informed, or really want to be on this group. Out of this group you can really pick some leaders. This she has done for so many organizations, numerous ones. She has worked out the technique. I can't tell you what it is.

Baum: You say her husband was with the Young Republicans?

McLaughlin: Yes. She and Mrs. Helen Milbank headed the campaign, that is they were the co-chairman of the campaign to get the Brundage Collection of Oriental Art. That was a very successful campaign. They ran the campaign remarkably.

Baum: I heard that she had done quite a bit in politics, and as you said, knew the techniques.

McLaughlin: She and someone else ran Judge Drew's campaign fund.

Baum: Is it mostly in city politics that she is active? Things like bond issues or non-partisan work?

McLaughlin: Now this is what I would say about her. I don't know how she would feel. She is one of the people who knows and respects democracy and is clever about helping it to function. I don't remember her ever working in a state or national election. She may have, but I don't think so. A person like that is very fine for a community. Like she went in with this Judge Drew. You know the story, don't you?

Baum: No, I don't.

McLaughlin: Well, he is a very fine person who was a municipal judge. He refused to fix tickets for the Teamsters when they over-parked. So one of the leaders came right out and ran against him.

Baum: You say that she is so good at organizing auxiliaries. You mean hospital work, or...

McLaughlin: She has done several. I think that the International Institute has an auxiliary. It is one of the methods of getting groups of people who are ready to do some little work, but not a great deal. Yet, they can be used for a background that is very healthy, to have interest in the hospital. Out of it come the volunteers.

Baum: In other words, a narrower interest in a group of ladies, not like the ladies you mentioned who were in everything? Someone who wants to devote four hours a week or something like that?

McLaughlin: Yes, and out of it comes a group that are interested in whatever the work is. I can not tell you anybody; but a great many people need auxiliaries. They realize that a pool of volunteers is very healthy.

Baum: Someone whom I was talking to felt that the influence of women in political activity has dropped considerably since the days that you are speaking of. In part, they felt that these

Baum: auxiliaries were draining these women off into little side affairs that were money raising instead of really attacking the problems of the city.

McLaughlin: I would say that that criticism of hospital auxiliaries was absolutely wrong. In the first place, in the town there are many people who have free time that they can use. There are different ways of doing things. There are more people who feel the obligation to make the city a more attractive and a better place. I would very much question that it was drawn off from any activity. Any person in a group who has done any leadership work soon knows after a meeting or two who the people are who will work a thing through and will work very hard, and the main thing--stick by it. Also who are in it for disinterested purposes.

People who are just there for personal reasons soon show up, too.

CHAPTER V

SAN FRANCISCO - EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION

Inadequate Education for Girls

Baum: Let's talk about your civic work, up through the 1920s, more the social welfare work than the political work.

McLaughlin: The political was really just committees set up to get something done and was part of the social welfare work.

It was an accident, really, my going out in public work. The fact was that from coming in contact with my husband's practice, I got a sense of how inadequate the public school system was at that time in meeting the necessities of neighborhoods as I saw them. For instance, take the Italian colony. They spoke nothing but Italian at home. The American people that these vegetable garden people came in contact with were not cultivated people. So the nurse was constantly pointing out to them that they were using vulgar words when there was a pleasant way of doing it. The real interest was in seeing the short span of life for girls. In the area that I'm thinking of they didn't go into high school because high school was a long way off.

Baum: Was this in North Beach?

McLaughlin: Oh no, we weren't in North Beach. We were in the southern end of the city. I don't think there was even a Mission High School then. There was the Girl's High School and the Boy's High School. When the girls finished grammar school

McLaughlin: they were through. The school was not reaching their needs as I saw them anyway. A good many of them were not trained for any kind of job-- I was thinking about the girls. They seemed to me to be rushing into matrimony. Soon they were in the problems of a family. In other words, the span of freedom was so short without any preparation from the standpoint of education that would lift them above the life that their parents had. A good many of those people did finally go in and take some kind of a professional training.

Baum: Those girls that you worked with...

McLaughlin: Well, a few in the family went on and took business college training. It shows how beautifully people like that can develop when they just get out of a closed environment. The environment was pretty well set by the transportation problem. You realize that San Francisco was spread out and it took time to get back and forth and social contacts didn't exist. At any rate, after my husband's death...

Baum: You had noted this through your husband's practice, primarily.

McLaughlin: Yes. Also, what interested me so was the fact that he was the only person with education that they'd ever come in contact with and they responded to it so beautifully. He had a natural facility for languages and people interested him desperately. He did an awfully good job with people and they appreciated it.

First Steps: Surveys of San Francisco Schools

I don't know whether it was simultaneous with the Baby Hygiene Committee or a year or two later, after my daughter was in school, when Amy Sussman Steinhart, the first Mrs. Jesse Steinhart, gathered a group together to discuss what was wrong in the educational system in San Francisco.

McLaughlin: She had come back from Bryn Mawr in 1902 to serve on the Jewish Orphanage Board, and realized the need for better public education. She came over here to the University of California and took some courses in education and came back and settled down to do some work in regard to education. I should say this was somewhere between 1910 or '12. She was a remarkable leader and a wonderful person. She had a fine group that she had gathered together.

Baum: How did you know her?

McLaughlin: Her mother and my mother had known one another, not intimately, but pleasantly. I had not known her intimately either but I had known the family slightly.

Baum: Did you know Amy Steinhart then, the sister of Jesse?

McLaughlin: No, I didn't know her at that time. I knew the Sussmans but I didn't know the Steinharts.

I took time to work out the things that were necessary. As I look back upon it I imagine under the circumstances that they went rather quickly. There were enough people of like minds to work together. The final committee that was set up included a group from the San Francisco Center of the League of Women Voters and the A.A.U.W. That group, I think, had a woman that really was expert but not very well known make a survey. She made what you could call an outside survey of what was wrong and what was needed in public education.

Baum: This was the Public Education Society.

McLaughlin: No, this was before there was a Public Education Society. This was a small group of women--a study group. Then it was enlarged and included men and women.* When it was called the Public Education Society, I can't tell you anything about it. They finally--how this was accomplished

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*A telephone call to Mrs. Nan Frank resulted in the following information.

The Chamber of Commerce became alarmed that so many San Franciscans who had left the city at

McLaughlin: I don't know; the Board of Education in San Francisco asked the United States Department of Education to make a survey. The Board of Education at that time was appointed by the mayor and the supervisor of schools [Alfred Reconvieri] was elected. There is a question about the board being elected or appointed. They may have been elected, too, but I don't think so. The United States asked Professor Cubberly, the head of the Department of Education at Stanford, to make a survey. Cubberly's reputation was so fine that he carried the situation.

Baum: This is after this lady that you mentioned had made her survey, is that right?

McLaughlin: Yes. Her small survey only pointed out the very obvious necessities. But the larger survey by Cubberly, of course, went into a much more scientific examination. And the committee enlarged. Alicia Mosgrove was on it. There were a great many fine men and women on it. The person that represented the San Francisco Center was Mrs. Ludwig [Nan] Frank. Dr. Adelaide Brown was

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the time of the earthquake were not returning because of the poor conditions of the schools. The Chamber, working with Amy Sussman (Mrs. Jesse Steinhart), arranged to have the U.S. Commissioner of Education, Mr. Claxton, come to San Francisco to make a survey. (One copy of the results of this survey can be found in the library of the San Francisco Board of Education.)

After this survey a group composed of delegates from 16 organizations met as the San Francisco Educational Conference. Mrs. Frank was the public relations person for this group. Among the organizations sending delegates, Mrs. Frank recalls: Labor Council, Building Trades Council, Commonwealth Club, San Francisco League of Women Voters, Downtown Association, Chamber of Commerce, Junior Chamber of Commerce, San Francisco Bureau of Governmental Research, Council of Jewish Women, Board of the PTA, Classroom Teachers Association, Public Schools Week (a Masonic group), Commodore Sloat PTA, Public Education Society (Mrs. Jesse Steinhart's group of interested citizens), the American Association of University Women.

McLaughlin: also on it. She was definitely as much interested in education as she was in the work she was doing in health.

The method of handling that survey was to take--set up a committee system and each committee took a chapter of that survey and applied it to the local situation, and estimated what the local situation actually was and what the needs were.

Baum: Could you give me more explanation or examples of that? I don't quite understand it.

McLaughlin: The education committee I suppose is now called the Public Education Society. There were enough people on that that you could find chairmen. A chairman would take a chapter and gather a committee of people to study what Cubberly said and apply it to what they knew about the schools in San Francisco.

Baum: By chapter you mean a special segment or field such as education.

McLaughlin: Well, the survey was divided into chapters according to the problems or what they'd seen in regard to schools. In other words what I'm trying to bring out is that they didn't just jump into anything without knowing what they were talking about. Eventually there were thirteen organizations that joined and I don't know whether Mrs. Steinhart was chairman, but she was the moving person in it. The Masons were in it, a man by the name of Adams who had worked in education all through the years and was desperately interested.

Baum: That wasn't by any chance the Adams who was a farm newspaperman?

McLaughlin: No.

Baum: He's the man who founded the Commonwealth Club.

McLaughlin: It was a different Adams. He was very high in the Masonic Order. Labor was on it. The editor of the labor newspaper was a tremendous help.

Baum: You don't mean Scharrenberg?

McLaughlin: No, he was never in on it. He was in the seamen's union. I wish you'd gotten him tape recorded before he went to pieces.

Baum: We did, about eight years ago.

McLaughlin: I had him to lunch two years ago at this time. He was glad to see me. His daughter Helen told me that he thought I was Earl Warren's secretary. (Laughter) He enjoyed being with me but didn't really relate himself to me in any way except that he knew me--he knew he knew me and we were friends.

This man was the editor of the local labor newspaper. Mr. Jim Ullins was his name. He was a very fine person and most helpful.

On the Public Education Society, every segment of the city that you could draw into it was drawn into it. Mrs. Steinhart was a very wise person. Of course, actually, Jesse Steinhart and she always worked together on these things. He was very helpful and definitely tremendously interested in this.

An Appointive Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools

This brings us up to the time when, I suppose it was '16, '17 or '18, when they took an amendment to the people of San Francisco. It was defeated. The people in charge realized that they had brought too many things in. So immediately they took their lesson and started in on reasoning out the situation and prepared another amendment. The other amendment asked for just two things, an appointive board of seven--the mayor suggested to the voters one member of this board each year and it goes on the ballot as either a yes or no. This was because labor wanted a superintendent elected. They didn't want him appointed. The philosophy in back of that was that in San Francisco there were too few

McLaughlin: people interested in education per se to make anything else healthy. That carried in '21 by only twenty-six hundred votes. It was a real campaign. It started in about '10 or '11.

Baum: What was this board supposed to do? This was the Board of Education.

McLaughlin: Yes. One a year was suggested by the mayor and either endorsed or rejected by the people.

Baum: So you were trying to get it a little ways away from election, or it would be just politics.

McLaughlin: It hasn't worked badly. They're trying to change it now. The situation has gone on for years. These names have to be announced, I think, sometime in September. All summer long we would work with the mayor about what his appointments were going to be. When I mean we worked with them, I mean, somebody from the League and the A.A.U.W. The A.A.U.W. didn't go into it--at that time they were doing no legislation.

They were, on the whole, good boards. Of course you never got what you wanted. They worked awfully hard to get good superintendents. Most of the superintendents were persecuted. It was a terrifically hard thing. I once talked it over with Mr. Chester Rowell. He said, "When you have a situation as evenly divided as San Francisco in regard to education, you've got to recognize that the fifty-one percent that really want good education won't be bothered to work for it, not always on the job, except in crucial excitement. And there are forty-nine percent that are constantly battling against you."

Baum: You mean the taxpayers that pay the money?

McLaughlin: No. The Church was always against us.

Baum: Oh really. I thought there were a number of bishops that worked with you.

McLaughlin: They were always against us. It was a little hard to analyze but in looking back I realize that, in fact, Father Charles Ramm, who once was a Regent, went over this during one of our campaigns. I went to see him right in the midst

McLaughlin: of a campaign. Of course you could to a man like that. He was wonderful. He believed in parochial schools because he wanted to have the children under religious influence, on which I think they can justify themselves. The process of education was getting increasingly expensive. It was very hard on them to have to suddenly modernize. I don't know about the parochial schools but I imagine that there are very good parochial schools. But life has demanded it of them.

At that time we had a big parochial population in San Francisco. My recollection was that in '13 I went to Franklin Street to the Bishop's house and then I went around to the separate schools and found how many children were in the parochial schools. We had 12,000 in 1913. These figures are approximately correct, even though I'm relying on recollection. The relationship between San Francisco and Los Angeles on this matter I know is correct and that is: San Francisco had 12,000 in parochial schools and Los Angeles had 4,000. It was a different type of population.

Baum: I think San Francisco has always had a very large Catholic population, much larger than Los Angeles.

McLaughlin: Not only did we lose the first amendment we went in for, almost every two years there was an attack on the one that was passed. As I say, we only won by 2,600 votes. We thought we had lost. I was president of the San Francisco Center and Mrs. Frank and Mrs. Steinhart came in the morning after the election when we were having a board meeting, and I ignored their entrance because we all thought we had lost. So they waited a little while and they said, "Would you mind if we interrupted your meeting so we can tell you we won?" (Laughter)

Baum: It seems you were going to attack the problem by having a better way to choose a board.

McLaughlin: A better way to have the policy-fixing body. We brought home the fact that they should be just policy-fixing, not interfere with the schools, the way it was before.

Baum: The superintendent was going to be the charge of the board?

McLaughlin: The superintendent was chosen by the board, but he was the executive of the policy that the board had fixed.

Baum: Was that in the amendment, the appointment of the superintendent?

McLaughlin: The amendment said that there were seven board members and they were to appoint a superintendent.

Baum: The voters often don't like to give up the election of a superintendent.

McLaughlin: It wasn't easy. He was a very poor superintendent. The only job he had was playing trombone.

Baum: What did you feel were the major deficiencies of the school system?

McLaughlin: The major deficiences would be a little hard to define at the present time. They didn't meet the needs of the children. You might say that they had turned their backs completely on any of the modern thinking about education. I'm not talking just about Dewey or some of the extreme moderns. The process of education was just as it had been for thirty or forty years with none of the modern ideas of keeping teachers up to standard and encouraging the good ones and demanding, as they do now, that they increase their potential year by year, and then supply the kind of education that helps them know how to handle a really modern educational system.

Baum: Did you feel it wasn't meeting the needs of people like your Italian population?

McLaughlin: It really wasn't meeting anybody's needs.

Baum: Were many of the students going on to high school or were a lot of them dropping out?

McLaughlin: If you went back on the statistics you'd find that very few of them were going on to high school and many fewer were going on to college.

McLaughlin: Of course this whole picture changed very rapidly over the years.

Baum: Was San Francisco any worse than other cities in the country?

McLaughlin: Los Angeles, from the standpoint of other educators, was infinitely above us in education. One of the arguments that you could prove was that they were prepared to spend a great deal more money on schools than San Francisco was.

Baum: I've always thought of San Francisco as being rather advanced in their social welfare.

McLaughlin: This wasn't social welfare. This was plain square education. But, my dear, this has all changed.

Baum: Were they so backward then?

McLaughlin: Yes, the schools were very backward.

Baum: I wonder if it was because there was good private schools available.

McLaughlin: There weren't enough private schools.

Baum: Of course they didn't meet the needs of the population but it might take a lot of people that were concerned about their children away from the interest.

McLaughlin: Yes, but even--up until the earthquake time I think we had about 350,000 people and of that there were three girls' private schools--not including parochial schools--the Madames and one other Catholic group were very fine. Of course, St. Ignatius College--high school and college--was always good. They really gave an education. The Jesuits gave a fine education to the men, a classical education. But the movement of increased education moved so rapidly that high schools were increased. Galileo was built, Mission High School was built; now one of the best ones is George Washington. But our population was static at 350,000 after the earthquake for a long time. But modern needs found more and more people going to high school.

Continuing Watchdog Duty of League of Women Voters

McLaughlin: The question of the Board of Education and watching the situation has been a problem. When we went over to the League of Women Voters this whole thing was carried over and there's always been a committee on education. Generally there is somebody that attends the Board of Education meetings and then when the time comes turns up at City Hall. The system that was set up in either '20 or '21 has been attacked any number of times. There are some historic stories that we preserve in the League. We generally tried to kill the amendments in the Judiciary Committee before they got to the whole Board of Supervisors. And the board was very glad to have them killed. There were terrific pressures brought to bear on them.

The story that we always tell in the League is about the meeting of the Board of Supervisors' Judiciary Committee when for three days and three nights we never left one of those meetings uncovered. We'd go on until two or three o'clock in the morning and then start again at nine or ten o'clock the next morning. A group would show up, we took shifts. And the curious part of it was that we were doing it because it seemed the only way to do it but apparently the fact that a group of men and women were ready to do it and spend the time, made a deep impression on the supervisors. It took a great deal of skilled political care to do this.

There had to be a key person in charge and Amy Sussman Steinhart did it until she died. The last time I saw her she called out as I was going down the stairs some suggestion about rules that had to be made. She was terribly astute about this sort of thing. And Mrs. Ludwig Frank has not always been chairman, but she's been there to do it.

There had to be an appointment made. Mayor Rossi appointed Mrs. Edwin Sheldon (Irene) who had been president of the Center. We were terribly grateful that she accepted because he only asked

McLaughlin: her the night before that to go in. I said to her, "Irene, this is wonderful for you to be willing to do it." She said, "I had to do it in Amy Steinhart's memory." Her memory carried on. This was the obligation.

Baum: Your point was that you were trying to keep the board nominative, but not elective.

McLaughlin: We didn't want an elected board. An elected board will work in a community that cares violently about education--cares deeply and understands. San Francisco didn't care deeply about it.

Baum: We have an elected board in Berkeley and we have our ups and downs.

McLaughlin: Berkeley ought not to have as hard a time. We would be hopelessly swamped in San Francisco, though. There is this argument for an elected board and an elected superintendent. That is all right in a smaller town where people are ready to work. But it takes a few dedicated souls in San Francisco to keep this sort of thing up. There's been the same number and generally we've managed to seat one or two very fine people. When I say we manage to, names were submitted every year to the committee with reasons why they should be appointed in that capacity. Furthermore, you have to be wise enough to get somebody that has worked for the mayor, who has standards. It's been an unending interest and obligation after all that time.

Baum: And you feel that the boards that have been appointed have been pretty good on the whole.

McLaughlin: There's always been somebody that's saved the situation. The superintendents have had a desperate time, desperately hard time. Mrs. Frank and I were running over the other day the different men who had been superintendents. I think, on the whole, the present man has gone along because he didn't allow the opposition to bruise and batter him the way they generally have. His capacity was recognized by his own kind. I mean, he has a recognition in educational fields, other than just in San Francisco.

Baum: It's a particularly desperate situation right now.

McLaughlin: Yes, very difficult situation, but he's holding his own. Mrs. Ernest Lilienthal is just dedicated. She's typical of the women who have been on that board. She's dedicated herself to it. She was Claire Blumlein Matzger. She has as fine a mind as any woman I know and as fine a spirit. Mrs. Larry Draper had a stroke as a result of the work and she's still there working. Anna is her first name.

Baum: I wonder if you could tell me what your duties were in the first stages of the public education...

McLaughlin: I was always a member of the committee.

Baum: And what did a member do? How much time did it take? What kind of problems did you work on?

McLaughlin: During the years there was a small inner core. The Public Education Society lasted for a long time and was headed up by some very fine people. I see that it's finally collapsed but during that time I was just part of the group that knew generally what was going on, what names had been submitted, what the dangers were. I was one of those that would sit up night after night if necessary.

Baum: So, you would attend meetings.

McLaughlin: Attend meetings and take responsibilities about whatever it might be that came along.

Baum: Would you go out and do survey work?

McLaughlin: We did a lot of campaigning.

Baum: And how about studying? Did this require studying up?

McLaughlin: You had to be sure of your educational basis--the advancement of the philosophy of education, and be critical about it, just not swallow all of the latest movements.

Baum: Did you visit schools?

McLaughlin: We knew what was going on in the schools. Occasionally, I suppose, we visited.

Baum: Did teachers ever call on your committee?

McLaughlin: It wasn't simple for the teachers. Every once in a while there was somebody that always worked with this group no matter how unpopular it made them. If a teacher took sides, he paid a heavy price.

Baum: I wondered if he were in danger of being fired.

McLaughlin: It wouldn't be simple. I think one of the funniest things is a woman who had been one of those on the board that we tried to get rid of and who was continued by Mayor Rolph, was difficult all through the years. She was a teacher in the school and on the school board at the same time.

Baum: Really, I've never heard of such a thing.

McLaughlin: Well, these were the things that happened.

Baum: She must have been active politically to be appointed.

McLaughlin: It's a queer thing. She finally retired. I laugh, she was so cordial to me toward the end. I said, "You know you and I were bitter enemies, don't you remember?" (Laughter) She said, "That may have been so but it isn't any longer." One of the men that was on the board when we got rid of him gave eight hours to Liebes and Company in their store. Yet he was supposed to give full time to the school board. This was before we got an amendment through. This was what we were up against. And he got a ruling that he gave eight hours to the city whenever he wanted to give those eight hours--eight hours to something else, it made no difference.

Baum: He was supposed to be a full time employee?

McLaughlin: He was supposed to be a full time member of the Board of Education, running the school.

Baum: I didn't realize boards were full time jobs.

McLaughlin: This was before we got an amendment.

Baum: I see. They were employees and really supposed to be working eight hours a day on the schools.

McLaughlin: She was in the school teaching eight hours, and he was in Liebes and Company eight hours.

Baum: All the time you were on the Public Education Society, did you belong as an individual or as a representative of the A.A.U.W.?

McLaughlin: No, as an individual.

Baum: Were there other members that were representatives of organizations.

McLaughlin: There were quite a few organizations that came in. I wouldn't be able to tell you whether they joined as organizations or as individuals. I think probably the officers of these thirteen organizations worked together. And they worked together a long time. We had some really very good men that headed that up at different times. Sustained interest doesn't continue always. I doubt whether there's an organization now.

Baum: Did you continue as a member of the A.A.U.W.? And were you active?

McLaughlin: For a while, but not for a long time.

Some Civic Leaders in Education

Baum: Who were some of the people who worked on improving the education system in San Francisco? I have the names of Alfred Esberg and Mr. and Mrs. Milton Esberg.

McLaughlin: The Esberg family was one of the strong Jewish families, strong in their sense of community responsibility. Alfred Esberg was on the Board of Education for years. He helped establish the working of the Department of Education after the

McLaughlin: struggle we had getting an ordinance through, the bill through. His committee had charge of the building of all the new schools. There is no earthquake that has ever disturbed them. They were building, of course, after the big earthquake, but we have had some tremors and they have never been disturbed. Any tremors that we have had, they have held up extremely well though he was being heavily attacked when he built them.

Baum: For making them too earthquake proof or what?

McLaughlin: The opposition was always there to criticize.

Baum: Well, there is always opposition. I guess a lot of it is just taxpayer opposition to any expense.

McLaughlin: Not in this case. It was the opposition who did not want the educational system changed and was not pleased that he was on the Board of Education. But he took it on as a job and worked very hard on it.

Baum: Well, what was the focus of the opposition? Now, you say there was some church opposition perhaps building such a strong competitive public school system.

McLaughlin: It was hard on the Catholic Church to spend on those schools the increased amount that was necessary when the modern era came through with the recognition of the value of recreation in education. Also to bring their schools up to to a high standard. However, they still kept up their parochial schools because they felt that they wanted their children to be raised in the faith so they made the sacrifices that were necessary for that. We had a large parochial school population. Most of the opposition came from there or they came from the people who saw no point on modern education in any way or the increased education. You don't find that opposition the same now.

Baum: You do, I think, to some extent: the people who prefer the old methods.

McLaughlin: I mean that the Catholics have recognized the needs of higher education and their sisters are

McLaughlin: all getting more education. The level of their school, the value of their educational system has increased under the pressure of modern events.

However, opposition has also come a great deal from politicians...I am not talking about the Dewey Method or any special method. The emphasis on education they did not think was necessary. They belonged to the era where America offered opportunities and if a man had something within himself the education was minor. The group that Mr. Esberg belonged to realized that there was a future that we had to be prepared for. They were trying to get our schools up to that. [Damaged tape caused loss of discussion of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Esberg.]

Before she [Mrs. Esberg] was married she went over to Berkeley to take several courses in education and then settled down to see what could be done about it. No, it was not for themselves. It was purely from the fine attitude of working for the community. Of course, our fine Jews were just leaders.

Milton Esberg was not like the average business man about the women that were helping him in any of the work that he did. He gave them full credit.

He and his brother Alfred Esberg were very much interested in the American people recognizing their obligation to the countries across the Pacific. The secretary of the Chamber of Commerce was Robert Lynch who was a very effective secretary backed by these men. Mr. Lynch and Mr. Alexander had very close connections with the Japanese.

Baum: Was this a business relation or was this the Institute of Pacific Relations?

McLaughlin: Both. That was prior to this Institute of Pacific Relations. I think that Mr. Alexander was made a prince of Japan even before the Institute of Pacific Relations was established. This whole group worked on this problem, but I don't remember the Milton Esbergs so much as the Alfred Esbergs. Alfred Esberg was one of the early

McLaughlin: members of the Institute of Pacific Relations. He was a very fine person.

Baum: I have the name of Mrs. Matzger, now Mrs. Lilienthal, in connection with education.

McLaughlin: Mrs. Matzger's maiden name was Blumlein. She is a graduate of the University of California. She had an extremely fine analytical mind. I personally always felt that she would enjoy the atmosphere of power. She had an exquisite mind and you can enjoy a mind like that. She did come into the League of Women Voters and was a very effective member. It was a very good group. Mrs. Charles was the president at that time, I think.

Claire worked exceedingly well. Her husband was a physician. She had two boys and a girl. Her husband was very generous about her work. He had a very cordial understanding. As I said some place along the line, the League always tried to keep one person who really understood the various factors in education in San Francisco. They always tried to get them appointed.

Now you know what the system of San Francisco is--it is a compromise thing. The mayor decides on what ordinarily would be an appointment. Then the name is submitted to the public and it is confirmed. I think it has never been rejected or else there has been only one rejection.

Baum: This is for the Board of Education?

McLaughlin: Yes. Claire was very fine; she went on that board and has done an amazingly fine piece of work. This very fine objective mind, with all of the problems involved, she has done very careful work.

Now at the present time, or the last few years, the Board of Education has been under fire on how the Negro demands could be satisfied. I put it definitely in that way because she and Doctor Spears asked the San Francisco Foundation to go about the United States before the Negro riots or any of the rest of it to see what other places were doing. They would also see how successful the so-called bussing, the last of it,

McLaughlin: was. They wanted to see how they were handling the Negroes.

Baum: She did go on this trip?

McLaughlin: Yes, she went all around the United States. This was about two or three years ago. She came home with very instructive ideas about the things that she had seen and done. I have complete confidence that she has made every effort to meet the situation, as difficult as it is. So much of this is caused by housing. If you satisfy one group, then there is another group. Then, of course, you get back to the fact that children who get too far from home lose the confidence of going to a good school in the neighborhood. I have complete confidence that she has a thorough grasp of the situation.

This was at a very fine time and before the Negro question came up she had an extremely difficult time because the difficulties were made when one man was using the Board of Education as a political platform, that is, increasing his potential with the public, let's put it that way. He had three men working with him. These men were on the Board and for the first time in a good many years, there were three fine people: Joseph Moore Jr., Mrs. Lawrence Draper, and Claire. There were four men that belonged to the group who talked like, "Now my Johnny doesn't read, and..." That education was not done as it was when they were boys. This was under Mayor Christopher. It was very difficult.

Baum: I think previously on the Board they had at least a four majority.

McLaughlin: Generally they managed it. You know, it see-sawed back and forth but generally they would manage somehow to keep it workable. These men were really tearing down everything that had been worked for. Mrs. Draper at the time was chairman. She was very fine and sincere. She had a stroke. The stroke, there is no doubt in my mind, was caused by the tensions of that Board. At any rate, one of the four resigned. Mayor Christopher was brought under much pressure to add to that four. Instead he put on an exceedingly fine person so that the thing became straightened out.

Baum: What happened to Mrs. Draper's position?

McLaughlin: She continued it. She recovered and Claire tells us that her mind is just as fine as it ever was. Her family feel that they cannot keep her off of it since it means so much to her.

Claire's husband died. Her three children were married. One of her boys is a doctor; one is a lawyer. Her daughter is married; they are a very interesting couple who live down in Arizona. Then within the last year or so Claire married, I think, Mr. Ernest Lilienthal. He again is a man whose wife was a great friend of hers. She died of cancer. Now Mrs. Lilienthal is being a very lovely mother to his daughters who are both young teenagers. He seems very much interested in what she is doing.

Now as I say, she is under fire. The Negroes are constantly attacking them. She headed an ad hoc committee on the subject of Negroes. She made a report that seemed to put out some of the fire of antagonism. This was about a year ago. She said herself though at the time that we yet have not made the plan that would fit what we said about it, but we have approached it objectively. We have acknowledged what the problems were. If you read the newspapers, occasionally there is an attack on her. More generally there is an attack on the superintendent.

Baum: Now she has a school board that will work with her, and with some detractors.

McLaughlin: Oh, yes. This Negro thing you see is one of the hottest things in years.

Whatever problem comes up she has the typical attitude of a very high grade jurist. People never showed much social discrimination against her because of the fine family she belongs to. Also she was brilliant.

Baum: Who is her family? Blumlein?

McLaughlin: Yes, and Joe Blumlein is her brother. He is very brilliant. He ran Sussman & Wormser. His counsin or uncle, an older man, had run it before him. Jake Blumlein was very much admired so Claire has had less of the social discrimination against Jews than the average young woman. Nevertheless, they are very conscious. The average Jew is much more conscious than the other Americans because there is discrimination in their lives. They know what it means.

Baum: Well, there is quite a substantial Jewish community in San Francisco that take a very active part. I am surprised that they would be discriminated against here as much as in other places.

McLaughlin: They aren't, but nevertheless there is discrimination, social.

Baum: What other things has Mrs. Lilienthal been active in. She came to this through the League of Women Voters?

McLaughlin: As far as I know, this has been where her activities were.

Baum: This is her prime interest, education?

McLaughlin: She was very much interested in various phases of the League. She did fine work for us in the World Affairs Council. She was very active in that, especially on study groups.

Baum: When was that? Was that concommitant with her education work?

McLaughlin: Yes, until that grew so heavy. Up until three years ago, and I am not sure, she may still be a member of the board, at any rate in the study groups, she has done some very fine work.

CHAPTER VI

SAN FRANCISCO - EMPHASIS ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Well Baby Clinic for Associated Charities

Baby Hygiene Committee of the AAUW

Baum: When did you start to work with the Baby Hygiene Committee?

McLaughlin: The A.A.U.W. sent out notices about the committees that they had. I don't know how I joined the A.A.U.W. Maybe it was just as I was leaving college there was somebody around.

Baum: So you were already a member of that. That was called Collegiate Alumnae, wasn't it, then?

McLaughlin: Yes. I registered to do some work with babies.

Baum: This was after your husband's death.

McLaughlin: Yes.

Baum: How long after?

McLaughlin: I should say about five years. After all, my child was three when he died. When she was going to school I was freer.

Baum: It was some time before you entered this work then.

McLaughlin: Yes. I never thought of it except in the very humble capacity of helping out in some way. I

McLaughlin: did work in the Baby Hygiene Committee, which at that time was just starting to run a clinic for the Associated Charities' boarded-out babies, with some awfully good women physicians, Dr. Holsclaw, a pediatrician, and Adelaide Brown, and Elizabeth Ashe. They were remarkably fine women.

Foster Homes and Adoption Services

Baum: So, your baby hygiene work had started through A.A.U.W.

McLaughlin: Yes. It started from Miss Felton's infants.

Baum: These were infants that she was handling for foster homes.

McLaughlin: They were wards of the court, handed to her to take care of as infants.

Baum: Handed to her under what auspices?

McLaughlin: Under the court's, the juvenile courts.

Baum: But not to her personally--to some organization.

McLaughlin: To her organization, the Associated Charities. She supervised the homes. Juvenile court legally handed the care of these babies over to the Associated Charities, who found foster homes which they supervised. Then the babies were brought into the clinic, with very good pediatricians; they were weighed and measured and taken care of. Also, there we would come in contact with a woman from the Native Sons and Daughters who would try and place these babies in proper homes permanently. You see, lots of these babies would have a single parent left and until that parent gave them up they weren't available for adoption. Then, furthermore, it was a great asset clinically for anybody like Dr. Langley Porter, the head of the pediatrics

McLaughlin: department of the University of California. For any of the people doing pediatrics--here was their clinical material.

Baum: The well baby clinic was first of all for the foster children, was that the original idea? Didn't other children come there too?

McLaughlin: No, just the foster children. Miss Felton of Associated Charities was a very interesting and brilliant woman. She was a leader in social work in San Francisco. She did magnificent work. But there are always complications about people like this. She really started the whole movement here--breaking up the orphan asylums and boarding children out. That was her big contribution.

Brewer: Didn't she develop a whole philosophy of adoptions that really dominated the social agencies?

McLaughlin: Yes. She was a great believer in Mendelian theory. In those days of course, there were more eager parents and surplus children. The situation has changed. That's the tragedy now. She worked very hard on the adoptions. She also had a group of foster homes that were really very fine. I might add that from my standpoint after several years I left because I found that she had a tremendous will to power and was a little ruthless about it.

Baum: Did she do this adoption work through Associated Charities?

McLaughlin: There was an adoption agency that worked with her. They had an executive. This woman went out in the country and set the standard for the sort of homes.

Baum: For the Native Sons and Daughters.

McLaughlin: She worked very closely with that home.

Baum: I didn't understand, I'm sorry. Miss Felton was not the worker for Native Sons and Daughters.

McLaughlin: Oh no. They had a trained social worker who did this but they took Miss Felton's babies.

Baum: I see. I know you used to read about orphan asylums all the time. I don't know of any orphan asylums now at all.

McLaughlin: The tragedy of this business of foster homes now has broken because the whole social and financial set-up has changed. The foster home system grew out of an economic and social system whereby the women stayed home and worked at home and the husbands carried the financial burden. After their children were grown and out of the home they would take babies to board and would really do a remarkable job. The social worker was very careful about choosing the type of woman that would have these babies. Then those babies were supervised. They came in when necessary to the baby clinic or the doctors once a week. Or the worker would come in every so often and the children would be examined to see their health was all right. The home was under constant inspection.

Now you realize that doesn't exist any more. Most of the women we know now have kept right on with the job they had as young women and as they grow older they hold on to the job or they retire. The question of getting homes for foster children is one of the difficulties now. Furthermore, the theory of the foster home was perfectly fine if properly supervised, and the homes were properly supervised. Marilyn Monroe, I think, is typical of an extreme example of what the potential is now. Every place that I know of around this Bay, there are emotionally disturbed children because they go from poor foster home to poor foster home. And they are just tragedies.

Baum: I think one of the problems is that maybe children are going into foster homes who are already emotionally disturbed and therefore a lot of families won't take them in.

McLaughlin: In our case they went in very young.

Baum: You mean in the early days.

McLaughlin: Oh yes.

Baum: They were very young and they were probably orphan children, but not emotionally disturbed or

Baum: juvenile delinquent or taken away from incompetent parents.

McLaughlin: No, they were just babies and they didn't care. This foster home breakdown is violent at the present time. There aren't the orphan asylums, you see.

Miss Katharine Felton

Baum: To get back to Miss Felton, what was her background or the reason for her taking this interest?*

McLaughlin: She was a trained lawyer and a very brilliant woman. She was touched over the misery of mankind.

Baum: Was she a local woman?

McLaughlin: She was born in Oakland. What her first step in charitable work was I can't tell you. She was a firmly established person by the time I knew her, who had a firmly established philosophy.

Baum: Did she maintain a practice as a lawyer? I think of her only in terms of charitable work.

McLaughlin: Being a trained lawyer was very handy because there were so many legal implications to her work. In fact I think she was a medalist of her class. I'm not sure that she accepted the medal.

Baum: At Cal?

McLaughlin: Yes. She was a very brilliant person and had the ability to get and surround herself with devotees.

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*The researcher is referred to a memorial volume by Jean Burton, Katharine Felton and Her Social Work in San Francisco, Stanford University, 1947, p. 274.

Brewer: Marion Delany was one of her dearest friends.

McLaughlin: Oh yes. I think they'd been to college together. She couldn't stand anybody around her that wasn't a devotee. Though I will say for her, she knew when she had deliberately done something wrong. (Laughter) But the end would justify the means. And, of course, she was working in the days when it was very hard to get the money to handle the situation the way she wanted to. She used people as human bodies, people who worked for her. Again she felt she was justified because she had so little to work with. She was a great leader in this area about boarding children out. It was a great thing to do then.

Health Check-Ups Before Starting School

Baum: In the early days when you were on the Baby Hygiene Committee, that was housed with Associated Charities, and met once a week, is that right? This service was only available to foster mothers and dependent children? It never expanded?

McLaughlin: That clinic didn't. The Baby Hygiene Committee ran well-baby clinics for years. A well-baby clinic gave a diagnosis or advice, but no treatment. We'd give diet slips and that sort of thing. We had to prove that we were just teaching people to go to doctors. One thing we tried to do after the first year was to take the children that were going to school for the first time and take them a month or two ahead of going to school and see what condition their tonsils and their teeth were in--and then advise the mother what to do to get them ready to go into school and be well. That went on for years.

Baum: I was trying to find out whether there were any baby clinics available to the average citizen.

McLaughlin: The city's still running them. When the city took over these clinics, the Baby Hygiene Committee concentrated on collecting money for and distributing it where there was a special need for it.

Baum: When was that?

McLaughlin: In the 1920's. They're still going.

Baum: I thought they were a Junior League activity now. I didn't think of it in connection with the A.A.U.W.

McLaughlin: I don't know what they're doing now. The method has gone on and so has feeding of children and the well-baby clinics in San Francisco. There is a Child Hygiene Bureau and they have the different health centers now that are scattered through the city. Just what they are I don't know. You lose contact.

Children's Year - 1918

During the First World War Jessica Peixotto established the Department of Social Welfare here [at the University]. She was asked by the President to take on the problem of what was called a children's year, probably through Grace Abbott of the Children's Bureau. She asked Adelaide Brown to head up a committee in California. This had a plan to touch every phase of children's lives and was established because in the draft health examinations they found so many Americans with health problems and educational problems. Adelaide Brown took the chairmanship, formed a California committee, and gave the committee her plan. This involved weighing and measuring. We had diet slips for all ages in all languages: Japanese, Chinese, Italian, French, and so forth. The total number of babies weighed and measured through the year I couldn't tell you.

Baum: Was this weighing and measuring to get them in? I suppose, to see how big her baby was would be interesting to the mother. Then you'd catch the ones that were in bad condition.

McLaughlin: Oh, you weighed and measured and a doctor saw every one of them.

Baum: I see. So they could at least note the ones that were not doing well.

McLaughlin: If they were in need, they could come back to us. If not, they were told what to do and how to get a doctor. But the main thing was that you girls can't realize that people did not know how to feed babies at that time. They were taught in these clinics.

Baum: It was really an educational device.

McLaughlin: Adelaide Brown said, "There are certain things we can do in a year and there are certain things we can't. So, we'll stick to babies. We won't try and do anything in regard to education or recreation. We will try to get this year a child hygiene bureau in the state of California; ones in San Francisco and Los Angeles; two public health nurses in every county that we can get; and we'll use the Baby Hygiene Clinic as an example.

Then the Baby Hygiene Clinic was moved out of Miss Felton's Associated Charities building out to Haight Street. We handled her clinic there and clinics for other babies, too. Then, as the year went on, we planned to weigh and measure all of the babies in San Francisco that wanted to come. And we established in different neighborhoods, with the cooperation of existing agencies--twenty-one clinics.

Dr. Porter told us that if we got a thousand people within the year we would be lucky. We weighed and measured ten thousand people the first time we had a drive. What you girls can't imagine was the necessity of this. Modern feeding of children had not spread except in homes which had a pediatrician, of which there were not a great many.

That year we had, I think, more than two drives here in San Francisco. The new place that we established was running all the time for anybody who came with a baby and wanted help. But it was also there as a demonstration to the women and the different colleagues that wanted to set up things of this kind. It was a time when women were seeking and the education went very rapidly.

Baum: How about inoculations, did they give inoculations?

McLaughlin: No, there was nothing like that. And they did not give prescriptions. What they do now, I don't know.

Baum: They do give inoculations now.

McLaughlin: You realize we had to be very wise to meet the medical question, so the final drive we had that year was to pick up all the children that were going to school for the first time that year and see whether their eyes and their tonsils and things like that were healthy. We did this several months before school opened to get them in shape by the time school opened. The main thing was that there never before had been a widespread knowledge of how to feed babies.

Baum: One more question. I had heard that the Well Baby Clinic was also a source of birth control information which Archbishop Hanna investigated.

McLaughlin: Dr. Brown was one of the pioneers in birth control in town, which was perfectly natural. My recollection is that Planned Parenthood for a while had their reception room with the Baby Hygiene Clinic. Then, I think, it was separated.

Baum: Do you recall anything about having to wait for Archbishop Hanna's.....

McLaughlin: The Catholic opposition was there all the time. But birth control information--the Baby Hygiene Clinic was never part of it. I think they housed Planned Parenthood for a while, but they were run by different committees. Of course, you were really working constantly, in any planned parenthood business, with the opposition of the Catholic Church. This was obvious. Also, you had to be sure that you were giving mothers education and teaching them how to turn to doctors on the things that were necessary. We were playing fair with the medical profession.

Baum: I hope the doctors weren't afraid they'd lose business. They had enough business, didn't they?

McLaughlin: Well, this sort of thing is always suspect. After it lasted a long time it proved itself. There's nothing more fun than to work with babies. I never enjoyed anything more in all my life.

They did a very good piece of work. You see, the main thing was that they had such magnificent leadership. Dr. Brown had worked on milk and was well known and then she came over to the question of spreading education and proper health for children, then she was also the leader in Planned Parenthood, and in the meantime on the education committee. She was working constantly.

Baum: Now, these Children's Year clinics were for all children and not just children under the care of the court?

McLaughlin: No, all children. This then became a combination of the Baby Hygiene Committee of the A.A.U.W. and the Health Department of the League for Women Voters of the San Francisco Center.

We used the clinic of Associated Charities, the technique of the clinic, as a basis for showing women in the county how to run a baby clinic. That technique had been worked out carefully. We housed it away from Associated Charities. We had just one year in which to work.

Baum: This Children's Year you speak of was 1918, I think. The Children's Year continued though, didn't it?

McLaughlin: It may have continued two years but no more.

Baum: I thought it continued for some years. I didn't quite see how one year could continue for several.

McLaughlin: It didn't because we couldn't keep that up. It seemed to me it was accomplished very quickly. Adelaide worked very hard and helped. For instance, she went up and testified before the committees in Sacramento. She was ready to do anything to get this thing through. She said, "This is my opportunity to get done what I wanted done for years." She was on the State

McLaughlin: Board of Health. She had been appointed by Governor Johnson.

Baum: And you were San Francisco chairman?

McLaughlin: Yes.

Baum: What kind of things did the ladies that were working on this do?

McLaughlin: The League of Women Voters provided the volunteers in the clinics.

Baum: They manned the clinics.

McLaughlin: Yes. The girls that had been trained in the Baby Hygiene Committee and knew that technique helped on that end. But the League managed taking the histories and working as receptionists, keeping up the records. It was a very cordial operation.

Baum: About how much time would a lady have to put in? One day a week?

McLaughlin: Everybody was overworked and dropped to bed every night dead tired.

I don't know whether it was that Children's Year, this was a combination proposition with the Baby Hygiene Committee of the American Association of University Women and the Public Health Committee of the San Francisco Center. The Public Health Committee ran the volunteers of the clinic. The Baby Hygiene Committee ran this house together. The final ending of it was that year or next year.

Dr. Adelaide Brown

Brewer: Mrs. McLaughlin, have you characterized Dr. Brown for Willa?

Baum: Dr. Adelaide Brown was the daughter of Charlotte Brown.

McLaughlin: Yes, also a physician.

Baum: I understood Charlotte Brown headed nurses' training at Children's.

McLaughlin: She was one of the people who helped start Children's Hospital. She was a very great person. They were far more than just physicians. They had a tremendous interest in the life of families. If Dr. Brown had families that she took care of, she helped them handle all their problems. She worked awfully hard on the question of education.

Baum: I didn't know she was a private physician in addition to her nurses' training and her health work.

McLaughlin: Oh yes. She had a big practice.

Brewer: You said that she was responsible for legislation on milk.

McLaughlin: Yes, she worked awfully hard on that. She was a tremendously hard worker.

Baum: Had you known her mother?

McLaughlin: Up in Nevada, that was all. She was very beautiful, a lovely face. Adelaide was too, except she weighed about 350 pounds. But she had an awfully sweet face and lovely curly hair. I don't know whether her mother had this very bad temper.

Baum: Oh, Adelaide Brown had a bad temper.

McLaughlin: Oh. Working with her was a bruising process, but it was worth it.

Baum: Maybe that's how she got so much accomplished.

McLaughlin: I think she got it accomplished because on the State Board of Health she was on with men and I think she restrained herself. I talked with some of the people that were on the board and they had not found her so. After all, she really gave those men a great leadership. And they were accomplishing a great deal.

Baum: Did she work with women's groups?

McLaughlin: Oh yes, she was very enthusiastic about the A.A.U.W. She worked with the Baby Hygiene Committee. Then she was chairman of Public Health of the San Francisco Center, which became the League of Women Voters. She gave the leadership in public health on the committee there for years.

Baum: I guess most mothers now know more than they did then.

McLaughlin: We've had a big new population whose feeding habits have been so different. Dr. Brown got the laws through on certified milk. The League worked with her very hard on that, too. She was a great leader for people and we learned a great deal. People my age felt that their time was well spent under her leadership.

Hygiene Bureau of the State Department of Health

The League went to Sacramento on the question of the Hygiene Bureau. That was adopted as one of the legislative objectives of the League. There was a Hygiene Bureau established in the state. A very fine woman physician, very carefully trained, was put at the head of it. There were the nurses in a great many of the counties. There was a nurse at the head of the work in San Francisco, which we accepted because she was a very fine person and did an excellent job. Dr. Hassler who was the Director of Health in San Francisco had a running battle with Adelaide Brown and he wasn't going to have her saying that she had established the Hygiene Bureau. But we had it and they ran twenty-one clinics. (Laughter)

Baum: If he had it headed by a nurse, was that part of the....?

McLaughlin: The nurse was one of Dr. Brown's most beloved friends, so it worked out very nicely. She was just wonderful. She was a very fine person. Then they did have public health nurses in every county.

It was very interesting to see what happened in the State Board of Health. Once when I was in Hollister I went down to breakfast in the morning. I was there for the Institute of Pacific Relations. I saw somebody that was glad to see me and I knew her perfectly well. She was one of a pair of twin girls that had studied pediatrics at the University of California medical school. She had been taken on for the Hygiene Bureau and she did work in that area down there. She was having a well baby clinic that day in Hollister. She told me she slept in a different bed every night. Later she was made assistant to the Director of Health in Kern County. This was at the time of Grapes of Wrath, the Okies. I had a long talk with her. She said, "We go to every camp, we go every place and leave word that there is somebody to take care of them--the county hospital is there and we take care of them." But she said, "It's mainly a process of education." You know the story of the Grapes of Wrath, the neglect of women and so forth. It was a very hard time for everybody. Whenever I've seen it I've been proud of Dr. Brown's accomplishments.

Public Health Reform - Certified Milk

Dr. Adelaide Brown was the one who led the big fight for clean milk. Near Visitacion Valley, there was a real ranch in there. A little girl was hoisted up with a bale of hay. It hooked her hand. Dr. McLaughlin was taking care of her. And I would hold the horses and watch these men milking. The cows were filthy dirty and the men who milked, their hands were so encrusted with mud you had the effect that the milk ran down on the valleys. They would turn their pails into

McLaughlin: one of these big milk cans, swing it on to the pump, where they'd pump a certain amount of water into the milk, and put it on the wagon. The pump would be from the well, near the toilets.

Baum: Did people in those days realize how unsanitary that was? Or was that just a new idea that came later?

McLaughlin: I think they were just beginning to realize what it was. When the realization of the situation comes, then you have to get the laws through. Dr. Adelaide Brown was the great leader on this. Then there were one or two brave souls who started in by setting up dairies that could be certified to handle milk properly. Gradually, the state regulations to handle the situation came.

Adelaide Brown was a remarkable person, first in her brains and then in her tremendous interest and her ability to communicate. I went to a conference of social work with her down in Santa Barbara. She gave a talk on certified milk. A woman way in the back of the room, apparently from some small town, very quiet, meticulous, and not particularly exciting, got up and said, "Dr. Brown I don't like the taste of certified milk." "All you miss is the taste of the manure, madam." (Laughter) She could do this just in a flash, you know. I don't know what happened to the woman who asked the question. You had the feeling that she just evaporated.

Baum: Someone like Dr. Adelaide Brown, did she have a private income or how could she afford to do this?

McLaughlin: She had a private practice. Her mother had left her an income, but she was a truly dedicated public servant. There were things that she knew had to be done--first to clean up the milk situation. You can't conceive of the way milk was produced! The filth in which it was produced. It's remarkable how quickly all of this was cleared up and how well it was done. She did a remarkable piece of public health work. Of course there were people that worked with her.

Baum: Was there opposition on that from the dairies?

McLaughlin: There's always opposition when there's change. No one can justify the filth in dairies. The producers found it didn't pay to produce dirty milk. It wouldn't keep. When the earthquake came along, we were just emerging from a primitive system. People produced with very little supervision from the health authorities. It was well known that at some of the schools the plumbing was thoroughly filled with all sorts of childhood diseases. People had no conception about that. It didn't take long. To look back on it, it really didn't take very long. The first people that did it worked awfully hard at it.

Women Doctors and Children's Hospital

Baum: I'm noticing that many of the leaders in public health were women doctors. I wondered if they were particularly interested in children or how that happened.

McLaughlin: I think they gave more time. You can't say that about a man like Langley Porter. But there was only one Langley Porter. There were men who worked but the Collegiate Alumnae Association or the A.A.U.W. were dwelling on the question of women, so they brought women into these clinics.

Baum: But in many matters of public service it seems like the physicians were women physicians. I know there weren't very many women physicians. So that must have meant they were in higher proportion to their numbers.

McLaughlin: This has been said and I think it's true, the Children's Hospital was started by Charlotte Brown, Adelaide's mother, to be a hospital where the contributions of women would be recognized. Since they had so fine a hospital, Children's had always been, we had an unusually large number of women physicians because here was their chance of getting their training and so forth. Then came the time when the young women in medicine

McLaughlin: thought all the battles had been won and branched out and were working with men. Children's found that they couldn't keep it just for women, so now it has a staff of men. In my day the women were really doing the work.

Baum: I didn't realize that.

McLaughlin: That was one reason you had so many fine women. It was their opportunity to really work and get a chance at clinical work.

CHAPTER VII

SAN FRANCISCO COMMUNITY CHEST

Setting Up The Community Chest To Replace The Charities Endorsement Committee of the Chamber of Commerce

Baum: You became a member of the Community Chest.

McLaughlin: I was on the committee that helped start the Chest. There were eighteen and we worked the whole year. I don't know how we got a grant of money for a secretary. Morgan Gunst was chairman of the Charities Endorsement Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. There had been a group in the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce that had been working on the idea of establishing what some of the other towns like Cleveland and so forth had.

The endorsement of charities was getting too difficult--to know what to recommend and what not to recommend. So the Chamber and the group working on Charities Endorsement worked--Morgan Gunst represented them and gathered together eighteen people that represented the community, the agencies, the money, and so forth. There was a secretary, Mabel Weed, an extraordinarily well-trained social worker. One of the most intelligent social workers I ever knew.

The plan for the basic constitution or the by-laws for the plan was very carefully worked out. There was a Department of Social Work. There was a department to collect money. There were committees for every problem. On that committee were three members of the social agencies

McLaughlin: and two from the business community. There was a program planning committee, I think it was called the Coordination Committee, to whom all these were finally brought up. To my mind it took a year's work after you had the by-laws until you could get the 107 agencies to consent to come in for a common collection of money.

Baum: That was their major purpose, to get a common collection of money.

McLaughlin: And better social work, too. There were 107 agencies that gathered together under Dr. Wilbur, as chairman, went on record for the fact that they wanted a Community Chest established. That was a record night. Every one of the 107 agencies expected to make a speech. (Laughter) When I left home I said, "Henrietta, I think I'd better take my dunnage bag and be prepared to sleep the night." Dr. Wilbur said, "You've all had this plan submitted to you, you've all discussed it, are there any constitution sharks here? If they're not, I'll consider a motion to pass it." This caused a lot of excitement. It was set up under very good auspices.

First Fund Drive, 1924

Milton Esberg and Mr. Dohrmann were the chairmen of the first drive. I consider that it was one of the great privileges of my life to be part of that first drive. They went out to the public and handled the people so well. The results were so satisfactory and everybody's heart and soul was in it. Miss Weed continued to be secretary of the Department of Social Work. Everybody worked and worked hard.

Baum: How did people respond to this drive? I suppose most people had been used to giving to their own special charities and they suddenly came along with a joint drive.

McLaughlin: The only charities that were really in a condition to do this were the Jewish charities because they had all so high a standard. It was quite evident

McLaughlin: after the first drive that the large sums of money had mainly come from the Jews. This can be easily proved. Their director was a remarkable person, Lipset. After the first week he came in on Monday morning and said, "I was up against it at the Temple on Saturday." And I said, "Yes, they've been reading the newspaper, have they." The gifts were announced you see. He said, "Yes, they had me against the wall." I said, "What did you say?" "I simply said, why were they worried, Moses was born 2,000 years before Christ." (Laughter)

Baum: Did the Catholic charities cooperate in this?

McLaughlin: Yes, weakly. There were some fine Catholics that worked. They never had worked with any enthusiasm for anybody but their own, but they came around. Father Power was a tower of strength. He was in charge of the Catholic charities. But neither the Protestant nor the Catholic charities were up to the standards in social work that the Jews were.

Baum: Do you mean that the work they did when they got their charitable funds was not up to...

McLaughlin: I mean when we started the Chest the Jews had standards, their work was standard, their office was the best run, all of their work was the best run. They had the best representatives.

Baum: The Community Chest would then supervise the dispensing of funds so it had to be done right.

McLaughlin: There was a Budget Committee and the first head of that was Judge M.C. Sloss. It was a great privilege to a person like myself to have had the experience of seeing some of these people work. Of course, Judge Sloss was one of the great people of this community. As the head of the Budget Committee he did a perfect job. The budgets were worked out in these committees that I mentioned. The social workers were there and the finance people, too. By the time they came to their decision the social workers and the businessmen educated one another. It was very healthy. It was well done. Milton Esberg and Mr. Dohrmann, oh how they worked. People gave

McLaughlin: the best of themselves. Everybody worthwhile in town was working on this. Mrs. E.S. Heller, Mrs. M.C. Sloss, Mrs. Kiersted headed up a team for just the ordinary community. There were some marvelous workers. The budgets were very carefully worked out before these committees.

Baum: I think that's where the rancor comes in, when the allocations are made.

McLaughlin: This came up before the Budget Committee. Each committee chairman appeared with arguments and results of the investigation. Sometimes the whole committee would come before the budget committee. This was done in a very businesslike way. Actually the staff was so much cheaper that the money spent for collection and distribution was infinitely less than the individual organizations found necessary. They had a very fine spirit.

You asked about the collection of money. The business community had their representatives. In the meantime, Dr. Wilbur was chairman of the Chest's Department of Social Work. Before him were presented the findings of the Coordination Committee. After meeting with various organizations and various problems he would bring up to the Executive Committee the social problems not being met.

Early Projects of the Community Chest

Health Survey and Hospitals

One of the first things that was done was to have a health survey. They had Dr. [probably Halverson] come out to do the health survey, showing the necessity for modern methods of handling health in a place like San Francisco. That was used by committees, each taking a chapter and working on it. The necessity for convalescent

McLaughlin: homes, consideration of what we had in relation to what we didn't have. Also, Dr. Wilbur really carried a very high standard of social work.

Baum: Did the Community Chest work with Associated Charities?

McLaughlin: Associated Charities was just part of the people that went into the Chest. The hospitals were always in the committee on health. Those handled family care and boarded out babies. I don't know the name of the committee but there was a children's committee.

Baum: It was made of all the charities that handled children, I think.

McLaughlin: Yes. Miss Felton was in that group. She did her best to stop the Chest. When she couldn't do it, she started out to control it.

Baum: I wondered if it conflicted with the Associated Charities.

McLaughlin: No, it shouldn't have conflicted.

Baum: Associated Charities didn't coordinate the raising of money.

McLaughlin: Miss Felton had her contributors, always. She depended on contributions from individuals, the Charities Endorsement Committee, and the Chest, and so forth.

Baum: I thought the Charities Endorsement Committee was an outgrowth of Associated Charities.

McLaughlin: The Charities Endorsement Committee was in the Chamber of Commerce and it acted, through the years, on all large requests for money or were going out for drives in the community. Everybody that was getting money from the community was in one--joined the Chest and was working in some committee structure. I stayed with them for four years.

We started in with a Coordination Committee, a committee on all of the problems where there were active agencies. Then there were interlocking committees. All these things came up

McLaughlin: in the Program Committee and then they went on to discussion in the Department of Social Work and all of their budgets went before the Budget Committee. That was the way it was handled at that time. At the end of four years the plan was changed and Miss Weed and I left, which is not particularly interesting to anybody but me. (Laughter)

Baum: Did you object to the changes in the plan?

McLaughlin: Miss Felton wanted to get all the money and wanted to control every little thing. She was a remarkable person. She had, of course, worked out the whole theory of boarded-out children, which at that time was fine.

Baum: I don't think she worked on children's problems, did she?

McLaughlin: Oh, she had family problems. She had families and the aged. But her chief interest was children.

Baum: She worked on the aged?

McLaughlin: Well, you had to in her position.

Baum: Interest in the aged is so recent.

McLaughlin: She had nothing to do with passing the first bill for old age pensions, but she was always in touch with that sort of thing. She set a very high standard, really, very high. And she really controlled social work in San Francisco up until the time of her death. You just had to go her way or get out, one or the other.

Baum: It sounds like a number of these lady leaders were pretty hard to get along with personally.

McLaughlin: She wasn't hard to get along with.

Baum: As long as you went her way.

McLaughlin: She never had these outbursts of bad temper or anything like that. You finally ran up against something and you thought that's it, goodbye.

Brewer: How did she make this manifest?

McLaughlin: There was a certain way she was going to do things and that was that. When the Chest was founded there was a Department of Social Work and a department of collecting money. The social work people had three members on a committee and the others were two businessmen. They were handling the different problems in the community. Miss Felton's drive was to get all the money--all she could lay her hands on. Anybody who stood in her way she just banished. It took a little while but she got rid of them. She left a very fine memory with lots of people. I hate to put this kind of thing on paper.

Baum: I don't think you can damage her reputation.

McLaughlin: Mrs. Chance said to me she'd like to talk to me about Miss Felton sometime. I said, "I'll talk to you after you've gone to see Charley Elkus and talked to him. She did so many fine things I don't want you to hear my unwillingness to go on working with her to influence you in any way. You talk to Charlie Elkus who was never disillusioned." He just thought she was wonderful up until the day he died.

Recreation - Josephine Randall and Mrs. Sigmund Stern

Baum: Did the Chest deal with recreation at all?

McLaughlin: Recreation in San Francisco was at a very low ebb. Dr. Wilbur suggested to the Recreation Committee of the Community Chest that they have a survey and he suggested Josephine Randall. She made this survey and Mrs. Sigmund Stern, who was on the San Francisco Recreation Commission just came and took Miss Randall and made her executive of the Recreation Commission. She only retired a few years ago. She's still a name to conjure with. She's a very fine person.

Baum: I've heard a lot about Mrs. Stern's work.

Josephine Randall Is Dead --A Recreation Pioneer

Josephine D. Randall, for 25 years superintendent of San Francisco's recreation system and a nationally recognized leader in her field, died early yesterday. She was 82 years old.

A resident of Atherton, Miss Randall died in Palo Alto Stanford Hospital. She had been admitted there on March 31 for surgery necessitated by an arthritic condition.

During her long career Josephine Randall received many honors and awards, both locally and nationally; but her most lasting monument is her work for the city. She was a stubborn and dedicated fighter for improvement in San Francisco recreational facilities and, by extension, for the city's young people.

CAREER

Miss Randall was first employed by the city to do a survey of recreational needs, and became superintendent of the Recreation Department in 1926. When she started, the department had 22 playgrounds; when she retired in July, 1951, it had 67 playgrounds and a $1.4 million budget.

When Miss Randall left public life, she received tributes from across the nation. The Chronicle said, in an editorial:

"She made a world-wide reputation in the field of recreation . . . Miss Randall's work has made San Francisco a better place to live. That is a worthy achievement and a high crown for any career, public or private."

One of her major accomplishments was the Josephine Randall Junior Museum. Originally it was located on Ocean Avenue, but after passage of a bond issue in 1951, it was moved into a new $597,000 building, surrounded by 15 acres, atop Corona Heights.

FACILITIES

It includes laboratories and workshops, a hall where young people can exhibit their products, playfields, and a gardening area.

JOSEPHINE RANDALL
As she looked in 1951

Miss Randall's concept of recreation was expressed well in a phrase she used before the Board of Supervisors. In urging approval of the Corona Heights project, she said:

"In the old days, boys and girls had attics, woodsheds and barns to tinker in. Nowdays there is no place at home for children to make things. A junior museum gives them a definite chance to develop hobbies. It opens up new vistas, and an entirely new life for them."

Miss Randall's primary interest was in helping children, but she also set up a wide range of programs — drama, music, folk dancing and the like — for adults.

Miss Randall was born in Sebastopol, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Stockton Randall, and was reared in Santa Rosa, where her moth ran a private kindergarten. She was educated at Stanford University, receiving a master's degree there in 1910.

Before coming to San Francisco, she worked as playground director in San Diego.

Her home in Atherton was at 57 Stevenson lane.

Survivors include a cousin, Colonel S. R. Dows (ret.) of Albany, and a niece, Louise Phelps of Atherton.

Private funeral services will be held tomorrow (Friday) morning at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park. Burial will be in Alta Mesa Memorial Park, Pal

McLaughlin: Mrs. Stern headed up the recreation work in an exceeding fine way. You realize, of course, what a beautiful thing she gave to the city in the Stern Grove.

Baum: Was that because of her interest in recreation?

McLaughlin: I never remember her without her interest in recreation. Then she was put on the Recreation Commission and no matter who was mayor she continued. Then she got Miss Randall, who had the unique ability to get along in City Hall. She had the highest type of experience and standards. City Hall just was so proud of her and loved her. It's wonderful. Mayor's secretaries always thought she was wonderful. She was a very fine person who just knew how human beings function. She did a marvelous piece of work for San Francisco.

As for municipal recreation there was much too little of it and improperly headed. Miss Randall, Mrs. Stern and Alicia Mosgrove did a magnificent job. Mrs. Stern was very effective. She had great beauty. She knew exactly what she wanted. She recognized people who would bring what she wanted as well. She had a prestige, and it was a kind of prestige that gave her political power. She was a wonderful force in San Francisco.

Have you ever been on Sunday over to the grove? It is one of the great things of the world and she did it.

Josephine Randall was a most remarkable person.

Baum: You say that Josephine Randall was at Stanford?

McLaughlin: I think so. Dr. Wilbur brought her up here.

Baum: As a teacher?

McLaughlin: No, I don't know why she was in Palo Alto. I'll just say that she was in Palo Alto. But he recognized her ability and brought her in...and she was a staff member to head up the thing.

Baum: Mary Ellen Leary gave me the name of Mrs. Plehn, in recreation.

McLaughlin: Yes, that was before the Community Chest got into recreation. There was a man by the name of Plehn [Professor Carl C. Plehn] here at the Department of Economics at the University. His wife, the mother of his children, died, and he married this social worker who was a recreation hall person whose name escapes me at the moment. She came out here during the first World War in regard to recreation. She worked very hard in recreation. Then she married Dr. Plehn. Then she worked, I think, with Miss Felton in the Associated Charities.

Baum: Oh, I see. That is the connection.

McLaughlin: I don't know if she had any of the staff jobs or if she was just on their committee. Dr. Plehn was a very well-known person. I think, in fact I know, Mrs. Plehn took her Ph.D. under him.

Baum: That is pretty advanced too. Did you work with her on anything?

McLaughlin: In recreation immediately after the First World War.

Baum: What kind of things did you undertake in recreation?

McLaughlin: Well, there was during the First World War, the care of recreation for the serviceman was all handled with volunteer money. There was an organization that collected this money. They had the usual type of things for servicemen. After the war was over, there was some of that money left. I think Mrs. Plehn made the plans for the effort to start some recreation places in San Francisco because recreation was so backward in San Francisco. I am doing this totally skipping certain things because it is indistinct to me at the present time.

Public Recreation Facilities in San Francisco

McLaughlin: In the early days, we had very little organized recreation in the city. City recreation was very badly done.

Baum: You mean free? I keep hearing about these marvelous recreational parks where you paid money to go on rides, or dancing, or picnics, boating, and all those things.

McLaughlin: When?

Baum: Probably in the 1890's.

McLaughlin: You are thinking of Woodward's Gardens.

Baum: Well, different kinds of gardens. Some of them were around here. You would have to take a ferry over sometimes.

McLaughlin: Woodward's Garden was closed up just after I was old enough to ride around in a boat. There was nothing--oh, the other commercial ones were like Coney Island...

Baum: That is a different point of view. Someone had told me about these lovely places where you could go with your family.

McLaughlin: There were swimming places over in Alameda. Then there was Paradise Cove over on Marin shore. My feeling is that they were all very low types of places. The performance of the people who attended was low type. I don't want to damn Paradise Cove because I am not sure.

Baum: That is the only one that I can think of.

McLaughlin: Well, Paradise Cove was over on Marin shore not too far from San Quentin. Whether that was one of these commercial things or not I do not know. But the people who attended them were pretty low type. In fact, they were more than low type.

Baum: They were not good places where you would want your young people to go?

McLaughlin: Not as far as I know. Woodward's Garden was all right but there were no other places.

Baum: There was a big place out by the Cliff House--Sutro Gardens.

McLaughlin: Oh, Sutro Gardens was Mr. Sutro's old home.

Baum: But many people went there on Sundays. Wasn't that the place to go and...

McLaughlin: Then after he died, his daughter took that place, Dr. Merritt, and she had the handling of his estate after he died. He died, of course, poor. She had a lot of hungry relatives who wanted her to grab it. She was a trained physician; a graduate of the famous university in Paris. He was a French Jew, you know. She took charge of his estate and gave up practicing medicine although she was very good. She had no children and she lived there in Sutro Gardens. It was really a charming place to go for children. They loved it. There was a lovely view and there were places where you could picnic.

She wanted to save for San Francisco the dream that her father always had. She managed through a student who was in accounting to make arrangements that she thought would have pleased her father. She wanted to give the land around Sutro Baths, around the Lincoln Park, that roadway, the railroad that went along there. Of course, this was really a beautiful gift, Sutro Heights, but she would want herself and her husband to live there. All she wanted was $200,000. It was infuriating to see the way she was trotted around with these beautiful things to give to San Francisco and to be turned down. She was told that they could not afford the Sutro Heights because it cost too much to run it so therefore, they had Fleischhacker get it. It still gets me mad.

Baum: We have an interview with Mrs. Robert Gordon Sproul and she told us about how when she was a little girl her mother would get her all dressed up and they would go to Sutro Gardens and walk around there. It was so nice.

McLaughlin: It was. And, for instance, there was a place on those grounds where the Unitarian Church gave Shakespearean plays at different times.

She had a magnificent gift to give. How it was finally settled, I don't know. But neglect of Sutro Gardens is a crime. They did not take the baths, but they did get the property. You know, this lovely roadway that is now closed up because of all the slides. All she wanted was $200,000 so that her husband and herself would have something to live on.

You know, Sutro did give the property before he died where the University of California Medical School is. He gave all that property. You see, he got his money through the Sutro Tunnel. Then he came down here and put all his money in what we call "sand lots." He owned many of them. You can see how far flung it was because the Medical School is quite a distance from the Heights.

Bancroft said in the history of Nevada that Sutro was an engineer and a trained engineer, a cultivated gentleman. Every engineer to be successful had to have the imagination of a poet. They travelled the same route.

It used to be a lot of fun to go to Sutro Gardens. Oh, it was fun to go to a farm to ride on the donkeys.

Baum: But, on the whole, the recreational facilities were poor?

McLaughlin: They were not only poor; they just were not there. It shows the difficulties in that sort of thing. I tell you, one of the men on one of the committees on which I worked at that time, I was the chairman of the Coordination Committee--here was this man who was a graduate of Santa Clara. He was very brilliant, really a very fine person.

There was this discussion about mental health and the necessity of recreation. "Recreation! I played ball on a sand lot. What are they talking about?" When that committee made its report to the budget committee, he pled, he made so good a speech about the necessity of recreation

McLaughlin: that Morgan Gunst gave him a bunch of violets.

You see, these Chest committees were quite interesting to see.

Baum: They were educational committees?

McLaughlin: We had to be convinced too, the social workers, it was equal. Well, that was changed. That whole set up was changed later. It was finally, the people making the collection of the money, campaigning people really, had the greatest power. I think in recent years that has changed.

There has been a change with the social planning committees that we have now. They have swung back to careful investigations of things they do at the present time. The Social Planning Committee of the United Bay Area Crusade really does very fine work. These were social planning committees. That is the way that it was done.

Dr. Wilbur, you see, was put on the cabinet. The way that you have to say it is that anything like this that first gets started gets the very best for a certain length of time.

Baum: Then I suppose that it drops off for a while until it needs to be replaced and given the best people that there are...

McLaughlin: Well, that is a long story. I left the Chest* after four years because I was in disagreement with the change.

Baum: Oh, this thing happened in as short a time as four years?

McLaughlin: Well, no. There were various forces. With Dr. Wilbur away, they got their way, but maybe they would have gotten it anyway. Miss Felton was determined to have a committee of the sort that she could work with. She opposed the Chest quietly because she preferred to handle change her own way. At any rate, what they are now back to, and I think that they have been for several years, is the Social Planning Committee.

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*Other material on Community Chest in Leiby interview, pp. 276-310.

CHAPTER VIII

SOME OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADERS

Telegraph Hill: Alice Griffith and Elizabeth Ashe

Baum: In the early days, who were some of the other women leaders?

McLaughlin: Well, now Miss Alice Griffith and Miss Ashe were pioneers, and were established social welfare workers before I had ever done the slightest bit of social work. Miss Ashe had trained herself as a nurse; she had gone to nursing school. I think she was a graduate of that Presbyterian [Hospital] in New York. She was a highly trained nurse. How they got started on the Telegraph Hill Settlement, I can't give you any of the details.

Baum: This was before your time?

McLaughlin: This was utterly before my time. Now I knew them very well in their later years and the work that they were doing. There is a habit of saying that they started the first social settlement in San Francisco. My recollection would be that the social settlement in South Park was started or was headed by Mrs. Lummis whose husband was the famous writer. After she was divorced from him, she married Ernest Carroll Moore who was in the Education Department here. Later he was chancellor at UCLA, the first chancellor at UCLA. She had a settlement in South Park; this would be, I think even in the 1890s.

Baum: Was that the one called "The Girls Club"?

McLaughlin: No, that was not South Park. The Girls Club was out on Folsom Street. That was in the Mission District. Whatever became of that, I don't know--of Mrs. Lummis's settlement, that is.

Now by the time that I was doing any public work, Telegraph Hill [Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Association] was an institution that was completely respected by the community. In it they had the first work that had ever been done on feeding babies. They had clinics of all types. They also had an instructor...well, they had all sorts of recreation. They had every kind of character in those agencies. It was then right in the hands of the Italians. It was a settlement that followed the neighborhood because of the necessity, it was mainly working with the second generation Italians. They were doing a very fine piece of work.

One of the difficulties may have been that they were Protestants, and, of course, the community was Catholic. Nevertheless, they were very much respected. Now they have moved, it is not far from the famous church down there. I think it is near Columbus Avenue.

Baum: I have seen that. It is such a pretty building.

McLaughlin: It is. This was built, I think, it was before Miss Ashe died. When it was dedicated though, she was gone. Her niece was named Camilla Hamilton. She must have Miss Ashe's diary. Now Miss Ashe's diary was partly family history. I think her niece was Camilla Loyal and she married a man by the name of Hamilton. I think she is probably still in the same house that was Miss Ashe's house. She can give you this material.

Miss Ashe went to head up some important work for nursing during the First World War. I think she was in Paris. Miss Ashe in the last part of her life was writing often. As I say, it was family history and it contains the work that she and Miss Griffith did.

Baum: It is more than a diary. It is sort of a memoir that she was writing.

McLaughlin: They had in addition to Telegraph Hill the place over in Marin County that was the convalescent place. It was for girls.

Baum: You mean physically ill?

McLaughlin: Yes. There was a recreation place in Marin County. Then on the same piece of ground there was a large piece of ground that was given to them. So you get that all from Camilla Hamilton who is a fine person.

Now let me see, Miss Griffith never was married. There are a good many of her nieces and nephews about here, but I don't think they have this history very well. The person who took it over was Ted Griffith, you know, the decorator who has been so successful.

Baum: What relation is he to her?

McLaughlin: Her nephew, and he lives in her home. As part of his inheritance from her, he took her lovely home on Pacific Avenue. Edward Griffith. He was the one who gave her the greatest devotion. However, her niece, this is Mrs. Eric Cochrane and she lives here in Berkeley. I think on Tanglewood Road. You tell Adelaide that I referred you to her.* So you get that whole thing about how Miss Griffith got the grant of all this money over there, and the building and the whole situation.

There was one part of it that was a TB place for women and then there was a rest home there besides. Now what else was there, I don't know.

The money was given by--it is so silly that I can't remember that, she is a very well-known person. Miss Griffith was one of the early people called up by the Internal Revenue to

McLaughlin: establish that it was a gift. That it was to be an outright gift in her lifetime, not something that the estate can save. It was given about the time that the Internal Revenue went in. So she was called east on this thing. From her description she said that all these men in the Internal Revenue Service started talking to her. One had known all the Ashe's in South Carolina so this was a southern town.

Baum: This was after Miss Griffith?

McLaughlin: No, this was all Miss Ashe. Miss Ashe said that then they asked her how it was that she got the land. She told them that Mr. So-and-So knew her needs. They asked her how she outlined her needs. She said, "I just stood in the midst of that valley and told him that I wanted everything in sight." She said that for some reason or another she got the land.

But these women were great pioneers.

Baum: Was Miss Ashe a very domineering or aggressive woman? I think of Miss Griffith as being more aggressive and Miss Ashe as being less so.

McLaughlin: Miss Griffith was not aggressive. Miss Griffith had a very clear head. She knew what was right to do. She had a background socially and built up partly because the community respected her so much. If she was right, she was ready to work for it. She was firm in her convictions and worked steadily to accomplish them.

Baum: Miss Griffith had social prestige already.

McLaughlin: Oh, yes. Both of them did.

Baum: Miss Ashe did too?

McLaughlin: Oh, yes! Her family was southern, quite famous southerners. Farragut was her uncle; she had his flag when she died. But, I mean, this was the background down South. Her brothers were notorious--the typical Southern wasters.

Baum: You mean that she actually came from the South herself?

McLaughlin: I don't know if she was born in the South, or if, you know, family tradition means a lot to the southerner, or whether she was born in San Francisco. Of course, you know, that there were a tremendous number of southerners who came here before the Civil War, a great many.

Of course, both Miss Ashe and Miss Griffith were pioneers in relation to the social group with whom they worked, and had grown up. But, I should say that most of the social group were very proud of what they had accomplished. It was daring for a woman of those years with the social background that Miss Ashe had to go into nurse's training.

Baum: It was a lower class occupation then?

McLaughlin: Not upper class anyway. It certainly was not social. In those days women did not go into any professional career.

Baum: That is right, they did not go into any training that would lead to work.

McLaughlin: Probably Miss Ashe was the more dramatic of the two in her general approach. Miss Griffith was always a trained gentlewoman who worked untiringly to effect the things that she believed in. There was not only Telegraph Hill, but also housing. She was the pioneer in housing. She was the pioneer who worked for better safety in housing in San Francisco.

There was a place over in North Beach owned by the Cuneo family, Mrs. Giannini. A.P.'s wife was a Cuneo. The Cuneo flats were a menace, always were a menace. For years the Cuneo flats were a symbol for Miss Griffith that had to go.

She worked for years for housing. However, instead of the decent housing that people are now trying to get, she was trying to get the places there decent to live and properly fixed up. Also she wanted to get rid of those things that were a public menace. It took her years. Finally, there was a slight fire that was put out. After this there was a meeting held. Why it was held I don't know except that they were a health hazard because of the neglect of putting

McLaughlin: in the proper plumbing and so forth. Miss Griffith led the fight that finally closed them. It was quite a dramatic evening.

Baum: Cuneo flats?

McLaughlin: Yes. The meeting, I think, was held in the Health Office rooms and Dr. Hassler who was--somebody else must have presided, probably it was held in some hearing room. It was a health menace--100%. They asked him what basis he used for saying that. Then Dr. Hassler had to read to them what the inspector had found in every room, not just in one room. Then they turned to the Chief of Police--is it true that this was a hot fire hazard? It certainly was! Well, what steps would you take?

Every firehouse in San Francisco was ordered when this series of bells rang--and he gave the series--that instantly they would go to the Cuneo flats. Every house, every firehouse in San Francisco was so notified. Then he sat still.

Baum: That was quite an indictment!

McLaughlin: Well, this was what Miss Griffith would do. She was very quiet with no antagonism, she was always a cultivated person. She had great bravery.

Baum: So she got the Cuneo flats torn down?

McLaughlin: Yes.

Baum: Miss Griffith was on the Housing Authority for many years, wasn't she?

McLaughlin: As soon as it was established, she was put on it. She worked for those two things, and then she worked for other things. She worked for decent housing which meant for her--it was really to protect the slum people. She was put on housing as soon as there was a committee. Then she worked for Telegraph Hill. Those were her main objectives. However, she lent her efforts.

When she was seventy, there was a luncheon given for her. After the usual speeches and eulogies, she said, "I am delighted to be here

McLaughlin: today to tell you that I have a future. I may be seventy, but I have a future! A future filled with certain desires. It is filled with promises that I hope to see finished and accomplished." This was her attitude toward life. She would say that with a smile. She was a very great leader and a very fine person.

Baum: In what committees or projects did your paths cross?

McLaughlin: Well, I suppose the first was the Baby Hygiene Committee because we included her Well Baby Clinic in our drive and they were very cordial. They had their nurse--Miss Johnson was a remarkable person in that neighborhood. She had great respect for the League of Women Voters.

Baum: But they did not work with the League of Women Voters, is that right?

McLaughlin: They were always members. They were very faithful on any of the health measures. As Dr. Brown brought out, they were very much interested in improving education.

Baum: Did she work on any of the educational committees with you?

McLaughlin: I don't believe that she did, but she may have. If she did not, she had a very cordial understanding about what we were trying to do.

Baum: Was she popular with the Italian people or did they consider her an outsider?

McLaughlin: This is something that I would not be able to tell you. She was a devout Episcopalian, very devout. She must have had her way with them because the settlement was so successful. But you realize that religious lines were much more heavily drawn then than they are now.

Baum: I am amazed at the way that the people from the different religions seemed to work so well together.

McLaughlin: They got fine results there on Telegraph Hill. Every once in a while you would hear someone say, "Well, you know, they had a hard time because

McLaughlin: they are not Catholic." I am sure though that they played fairly. I mean they had a decent attitude. My husband, always if he had a Catholic patient and there was any question, he would see that they had a priest. I mean there are certain amenities that you observe, naturally observe, you have to, it is just part of life.

It was a very successful house that they kept. It was humanly needed and it was desperately needed.

Baum: Was that a bad neighborhood as far as delinquency goes?

McLaughlin: That I cannot tell you.

Baum: I think you mentioned that your husband found that the people were often very ill-informed on health.

McLaughlin: Oh, Miss Ashe and Miss Griffith were great pioneers. They really got those people to recognize the simple basis of health. They were great educators with regard to health. They were alone, these two worked alone for twenty or thirty years.

Baum: I have a note that she started in on this housing right after the earthquake.

McLaughlin: I think that Miss Griffith had been working on it before. She hoped, I suppose, when the earthquake came that when they rebuilt...

Baum: I think that is what I had heard--that because they were rebuilding with no pattern...

McLaughlin: That I don't know. What I do know is the first buildings that she saw started were on Telegraph Hill because the people had their money in their sock and took it with them. They went right out and began building again.

Baum: Now, Alice Griffith's father was a tugboat captain, I think.

McLaughlin: Yes. Captain Griffith was the man who came out in '49. They lived up on Rincon Hill. I have

McLaughlin: been trying to find a picture of the marble lions in front of their house. You know Dr. Shumate has done a lot of work on Rincon Hill. I said, "I heard so much about those lions but I have never seen a picture of them."

Baum: I heard that Captain Griffith charged high towing rates for the ships coming in because he had a monopoly on the tugboat business. Finally the other merchants got together and started their own tugboat company in order to have some competition. I wondered if he had a reputation for overcharging.

McLaughlin: No, I never heard that. It may not be true. I have never heard anything about the Griffith family that was not pleasant.

Baum: Did you know Captain Griffith? Was he a very civic minded gentleman?

McLaughlin: I don't know, but they had a lovely home up on Rincon Hill. He had these two daughters. The other one did not join Miss Griffith. She died. I don't know if he had any more than this one son, who was tremendously interested in fine horseflesh. Never did he follow along with his father's business. He also was a perfectly delightful person if he liked you.

Baum: This is the father of the nieces and nephews of Alice Griffith?

McLaughlin: Yes. He was awfully nice to my husband when he was ill. There may have been other sons, I don't know.

Baum: But none of the others were in civic work that you know of?

McLaughlin: No. Miss Griffith left a very fine will. They were always ready to adopt a new idea if they saw progress in it. She left a generous amount of her estate to the San Francisco Foundation. Considering her deep interest in the work it was natural that she left it to the civic things, but she felt that it was far better not to anticipate the future but to put it into the hands of someone who would see that it was spent correctly--that is for the time, in a way that would seem best in that time.

McLaughlin: I think that is an indication of the type of mind that she had. She was well along in her eighties when she did that. She approached the facts of life with great judgment.

Housing: Julia Porter and Dorothy Erskine

Baum: I wanted to ask you about Julia Porter before we finished.

McLaughlin: Now Mrs. Porter has been a zealot on housing. She, I would say, being younger than Miss Griffith during the years when Miss Griffith was working, followed her. I assume that she was in what was either SPUR or its predecessor. Then she was put on the housing commission of San Francisco and has been there over the years. Julia Porter is a violent working Democrat. She works very effectively as a Democrat. She telephoned and said, "Now I am in the Democratic Party, but I am never going to see the League misunderstood or wronged. I so believe in the education that it gives to women." It was something where she felt that there was a danger to the League of Women Voters.

Years ago she was on the League Board, but she is a partisan. She has worked very hard and effectively for the party. She also worked very hard for decent housing and has taken fine stands. She has been reappointed constantly.

Baum: She is too partisan to take a prominent part in the League?

McLaughlin: She did her share at one time.

Baum: Oh, yes. Doesn't the League have a policy though that a very partisan person should not be an officer?

McLaughlin: Yes, you cannot be both. Then another thing that she was very interested in was homes for the aged. She worked very hard for the amalgamation of the

McLaughlin: Crocker Home and the Ladies Protection and Relief Society which ended up being Heritage House down on Marina. She carried the board of the Crocker Home and worked for the amalgamation of the two. Then I think that she dropped out of it. She did some very hard work on that though.

She was very much interested in seeing that two organizations would survive with a good program. She also wanted them to have sufficient money. Now I don't know if the Ladies Protection and Relief Society having built the house were short of money or whether the Crocker Home endowment was not sufficient to carry it in modern days. That can happen since the cost was so much less. They may have taken people in at a price that was no longer feasible. Now I don't know what that situation was, but at any rate, Julia Porter worked for that, and I think that it ended up with the people thinking that the amalgamation was a very good thing.

Baum: Another of the ladies who was active in community affairs was Mrs. Dorothy Erskine. I know that she has been active in housing, also. That is Mrs. Morse Erskine.

McLaughlin: Yes, this is the phase on which I have known her slightly. She was given some citation the other day from some housing group. I don't know if it was SPUR or what it is. She worked on housing before it was accepted popularly. She worked very hard on it and most intelligently. She has been interested in international relations. She is the sort of a person that if a problem has not been thoroughly explored and she feels there is an injustice, she lends herself to it. The thing where she has done her best work, I should say, is in housing.

Baum: I guess I had understood that she went back to at least the 1930's on this housing. Have you worked on any of the housing issues?

McLaughlin: No, I cannot tell you enough about it. I know the people in SPUR, but you know you can get to the point where somebody is doing a very good job so you let them do it. But she has been most helpful in that, especially in the days where it

McLaughlin: was not understood as far as public housing was not accepted.

Baum: Is she from the League of Women Voters too?

McLaughlin: No, I imagine that she belongs but she has never worked actively.

Baum: You don't know what her pre-housing training was. It seems that most of these women got their training in some organization or another.

McLaughlin: I don't know. She may have just followed Miss Griffith, I don't know. She had a real compulsion about it. Someone who knows her better than I do may tell you where she got that. I should say that we did not have a friendly enough acquaintanceship; I don't know any more than that.

Baum: So many of the ladies were trained in the League of Women Voters. Now I gather from your remarks that many of them are being trained in the Junior League.

McLaughlin: As a matter of fact, I think that many of them are. It is a very good idea.

Baum: So often I think of the Junior League as sort of a social affair.

McLaughlin: Well, you know, this is it, I don't know who was terribly misinterpretive when I told them about this project. Most of those girls have had a college education and most of them who go in for a thing like that are serious about it.

Mrs. Erskine, for instance, if there is a controversial issue she tries to get the factual material without prejudice, I think you could say. She went to Russia about 20 or 30 years ago as soon as Russia was open to see what she could see. I should say the basis of her approach was a great feeling to assure that people are treated properly, given the chance.

Baum: I have the name of a Mrs. Frieda Klussmann especially on the "Save the Cable Cars" issue. I wondered what else she had been in on?

McLaughlin: Mrs. Klussmann is either an artist or has a great interest in art. She did fight to keep the cable cars. I would say that if there are any cable cars left in San Francisco, it is due to her. I think she was right in it. This is something most unique to San Francisco. Everybody who comes wants to ride on them and go to Fisherman's Wharf, even the Princess [Princess Grace of Monaco]. Mrs. Klussmann was right in it. She lives up on Telegraph Hill. There is a perfectly beautiful view, and there is a lovely garden. Every once in a while, she plunges into something in the community that needs help. There has been one in this last 12 months, I think, I cannot for the life of me remember what it was. She gets very emotional about these things. However, she carries people along so people think that she is not quite analytic enough.

Baum: Is she affiliated with the League of Women Voters?

McLaughlin: I think she is more nearly close to the office groups. What that affiliation is I don't know. I don't know that she always uses the same judgment as some of these other women that we have been talking about. If she starts at a thing, she works very hard on it. Sometimes she gets very emotional about it. Her method of work is different but she has accomplished something.

Rosenberg Foundation: Leslie Ganyard

Baum: Leslie Ganyard was someone who was mentioned to me as having worked on the Rosenberg Foundation for a long time.

McLaughlin: Leslie Ganyard was a graduate of the University of California, I think in social work. I imagine it must have been under Miss Peixotto. She did various things in social work. She did the welfare work for the Emporium for instance.

Baum: You mean the department store?

McLaughlin: Yes, they always have a welfare worker in a place like that. That is for the employees. That is the first thing I remember her doing. What she did in other intervals, I don't know.

Now she was secretary of the Rosenberg Foundation. She did some most extraordinarily interesting pieces. I should say that they worked mainly in some phase of the educational field until they decided to really keep themselves to the question of those social abuses that affected the last children.

The report of the Rosenberg Foundation--apparently they always had a professional to take their material and write it up. It is very readable and very exciting. They have had a generous amount of money.

Baum: Is this money from the food processing Rosenbergs?

McLaughlin: Yes, there were three Rosenberg brothers. This Foundation, I think, came from the three. The first brother died and left a certain amount of money to be used for the well deserving poor, something of that type. Then Max Rosenberg, the middle brother, was really personally very responsive to those projects which if carefully analyzed and handed to him, he would follow through. He gave stimulus through his own money, or he and his brother Abraham Rosenberg, the older one. I cannot tell you the amount of that fund. They went through California before they settled down just for children and even afterwards. The projects they took up had probably been hunted up by Mrs. Ganyard or through the stimulus of Mrs. Ganyard. Then the method of handling these projects was very carefully worked out so that the money invested would leave some permanent effect in the community. Of course, you always had a very unusual board.

For years Charles Elkus was the chairman of that board. He was tremendously interested in it. There still is an exceedingly fine board on it. I ought to be able to tell you some of the projects but they were done with great intelligence and with sufficient money to keep on it to make a

McLaughlin: permanent change for the county or the city. Something that would affect the lives of the population of the community that were more or less adopted.

Leslie Ganyard, did as secretary of the Rosenberg Foundation, carry out these things with great intelligence and understanding of social problems. She grew very much on the job surrounded by the people she was working with. She has always had a very fine board.

Baum: I heard that she always had a number of prominent women on her board.

McLaughlin: Well, Carolyn Charles has been on it for a long time. Mrs. Ellie Fleishhacker-Anderson is on it. I don't remember what women were on it before. Dick Guggenheim was on it. The man who was the secretary of the YMCA, Roy Sorenson, was on that board.

Let me tell you, he has done some very fine work, but I think he has worked with power. I don't believe in over-praising people but I don't believe that I can give an adequate view of the fine work that he has done. Now Charley Elkus was perfectly devoted to him. Roy Sorenson was chosen by the family to pay the tribute in memoriam to Charley. That is really a great honor.

Charles and Ruth Elkus

Charley Elkus was really one of the finest people we have had in San Francisco, no doubt about it. In charity he carried for Miss Felton her children's committee over the years which meant that in the early days when there were legal matters, he would work on those, work on bills, and get things ready to go to the legislature. If he started anything of that sort, he would see it through. He worked with real selflessness.

McLaughlin: Then he worked for the Indians, especially the Indians of the Southwest; as long as I can remember, he was trying to help them in their difficulties. Through the years since he has died, there have been tributes paid to him. There was this recent Indian exhibition in the Palace of the Legion of Honor. There was a plaque in tribute to him on the wall. He had a great collection of the art forms of the Indians. He and his wife had great friends among the Indians chiefly of the Southwest.

Baum: Did they travel down there?

McLaughlin: They went there a great deal and worked constantly. This was way back in the time when John Collier was in the Indian Bureau, or even before that.

Baum: Did Charles Elkus have training in anthropology or something like that in school?

McLaughlin: I don't think so; he was a lawyer. How he got so interested in the Indians, I don't know. He did the same thing in the social work.

I consider one of the greatest privileges of my life was that when I was chairman of the housing committee, I was asked to serve on Mr. Elkus's Children's Committee of the Associated Charities under Miss Felton. Anybody who came on that committee quite unconsciously came up to his high standards. He had a very clear mind and took a great deal of responsibility. As I say, whenever there was any legal work that had to be done, he would thrash out just how the law should be drawn up and then he would draw it up for them. He would work very hard on it. He did the same thing for the Indians.

How he could be so successful on his own, that is, in his professional work and bring up his own family and be a fine friend as he was, it is just hard to understand. He was a man with wide interests but he did not waste himself. If he went into anything, it was a real project. He would give understanding to other things, but it was a real project.

Ruth Elkus, his wife, was a very unusual person, a very lovely person.

Baum: Was she working on the same things or was she working on other things?

McLaughlin: She worked with us in the League. All during the war she worked for the Women's City Club. She was for years on the League of Women Voters Board. She worked as the program chairman. She was a woman of deep and wide interests. They made this very fine collection of Indian art forms.

Baum: This was a special interest of hers too?

McLaughlin: Oh, yes! They were all great friends of hers. When they did things, there was an unusual companionship. She was very definite about things; if she disagreed with you, it was very stimulating. And he was the type of person even in his own home, you could sit and disagree violently with him. That was okay; he would sit there and prove his point. He was usually right in legal things.

His relationship with the Indians was very personal too. I think, while the Indians of California differed a great deal from Indians where his chief friendships seem to have been, he nevertheless helped them at various times in their legal problems. And there were many of them.

If Charley Elkus was interested in anything, the public would not stop him. He built his case very carefully. He did nothing superficially.

Years and years ago, one of the first things that I heard of him doing when he was quite a young man was work to get the liquor out of the dance halls. And they were successful.

Baum: This was even before the Public Dance Hall Committee?

McLaughlin: It was long before that. Alicia Mosgrove was in that too. I had heard about him, but I did not know him then. It is when he was quite a young man.

He was a wonderful friend because he would never pretend to agree with you all the time. If

McLaughlin: he found you worthwhile, he was just a wonderful friend. His friends were legion really.

Alicia Mosgrove and Katherine Hooker

Baum: What was Alicia Mosgrove's background?

McLaughlin: Her family was an old San Francisco family. She used to boast that she did not go to college. I knew her sister and I knew what she said about her family. She lived for a great many years with Mrs. Hooker, a very wealthy woman, and traveled a great deal with her.

Then she and a friend of hers started a girl's school down in Los Angeles. They made a great success of it. Then she came back to San Francisco. And this was Mrs. Hooker--Alicia said that she went to spend the night and spent 19 years.

Baum: Now, who was Mrs. Hooker besides a wealthy woman?

McLaughlin: She was a wealthy woman who had a tremendous interest in various community things. I suppose that she was more interested in the cultural things, but this I am not sure of. Then during the Depression, she had to draw in her generosities. She has a perfectly beautiful house. Now this is the kind of wonderful thing that Jack Neylan did. He took her estate that was handled by a man who was not a smart businessman. It had gone down a great deal and Jack Neylan built it back until before she died, it was all back.

Baum: Mrs. Hooker was a widow?

McLaughlin: Yes.

Baum: And Alicia Mosgrove, so far as you know, had no special training in social work?

McLaughlin: But she did it very well. She had remarkable human understanding.

Baum: She came from a prominent San Francisco family, or one moderately so?

McLaughlin: I think that it was a moderate. But I think that she is just one of those people who had a remarkable perception for the needs of people. She was remarkably objective too.

Baum: She seems to pop up in so many things, to have been in so many things.

McLaughlin: She did a great deal of good.

Baum: She was not married?

McLaughlin: No.

Baum: It seems there were a lot of ladies here who didn't marry and who devoted their lives to social work or civic work.

McLaughlin: I think Miss Mosgrove just died this year. It is too bad that you could not have talked to her. I think it is just about this year.

Mrs. Hooker had friends all over the world in education or interested in many of the art forms so they had a great many very interesting personal contacts. Then apparently, the school that she founded down in Los Angeles, from which she retired in her 50's still supported her. She was very successful.

Now who were some of these other people that you wanted to ask me about?

YMCA: Roy Sorenson

Baum: Roy Sorenson.

McLaughlin: Roy Sorenson was the secretary of the YMCA over here. He has been an outstanding person and he is well known as a social worker and has done something more than just his job in social work. In the YMCA, and for his effect in the community he has been tremendously admired by some people. He has been on the Rosenberg Foundation. A great many people, including myself, felt that no social worker should be on that committee. Charley Elkus was very devoted to him. He was very much admired. All the Elkus family was devoted to him. When they had memorial services, Roy Sorenson was the principal speaker so this shows you how he was received and admired. He did a good deal of education among the volunteers in helping boys to show how they should train their volunteers. In some fundamentals in social work, he has worked very hard.

Baum: He is still on the YMCA?

McLaughlin: I am one of the people who thinks that he has a tremendous will to power but that does not deny him the fact that he has helped put social work on a high level.

He has done a good deal of training too and tries to have people on boards. He probably has a very fine effect on social work and, at times, he is truly magnificent. So people tell me.

San Francisco Department of Social Welfare: Ruth Turner and Mildred Prince

Baum: I want to ask you about Ruth Turner and Mrs. Eugene Prince. [Mildred Mallon Prince]

McLaughlin: Ruth Turner, I think she was on the Probation Committee. Now it is Ruth Turner that you must ask about Mrs. Prince. Miss Turner worked with Mrs. Prince on founding the Department of Social Welfare in San Francisco. She could give you a very much better picture of Mrs. Prince than I can.

Baum: You weren't on any committees or anything with Mrs. Prince?

McLaughlin: I think maybe I was. I have forgotten.

Baum: It sounded like she might have taken a different point of view.

McLaughlin: She herself said that she was a rightest conservative. She was very highly trained. She was a lawyer. Of course Eugene Prince was one of the nicest people who ever lived. Ruth Turner worked with Mrs. Prince very closely. Ruth, you know, is a graduate of the University in the Department of Social Welfare. She really, well, she had a paid job over here. Then she would work for Associated Charities. Then, of course, she gave it up and worked as a lay person on an organization. But she had this training under Miss Peixotto. She and Mrs. Prince and Miss Peixotto really worked out the Department of Social Welfare.

Baum: Where does Ruth Turner live now?

McLaughlin: In the Royal Towers. You know, there on Taylor Street. She has a fine background and she is a fine person.

Baum: I got the idea that Mrs. Prince and Miss Turner working together worked toward a very efficient administration of Social Welfare, but also a very niggardly one. Perhaps they were a little more close-fisted than they had to be in those days.

McLaughlin: Now, Miss Turner when she did a job, she would do a good job. I have a great respect for her. It was concerning Mrs. Prince's actions in politics that I think I wouldn't be fair with her. Ruth will give you the right balance. She would enjoy explaining this work that they did on the Department of Social Welfare.

Baum: Eugene Prince was an attorney for the P.G. & E., is that right?

McLaughlin: He was an extremely fine man, very fine. He was very devoted to his wife. She was a brilliant person.

Baum: It seems that those ladies that were active were certainly highly trained for that period.

McLaughlin: She was trained and, as I say, Ruth trained under Miss Peixotto. Then she got out and worked in spite of the fact that her family was very wealthy; they had a good deal more than the average. She did extremely good work wherever she worked.

Baum: She worked with Miss Felton?

McLaughlin: She worked for Miss Felton. She had a position with Miss Felton for a long time. Then she resigned from that, but she is highly devoted to Miss Felton. Now what were some of the other things?

Elinor Heller and the Heller Family

Baum: I have Elinor Heller listed as a community leader.

McLaughlin: As for Mrs. Edward Heller, she has been from the time she was a girl an extremely brilliant person, a remarkable mind. Her father was one of the early constructive workers in the Commonwealth Club. [Alfred E. Raas] He was a businessman, but really a very rare person from the standpoint of a sense of community responsibility. I would rather suspect that he worked with the Johnson group but I don't know.

Baum: What was his name?

McLaughlin: Good heavens, well maybe it will come to me. We can easily find it. As you know, she went to Mills where she made an extremely fine record. I think she was Phi Beta Kappa or maybe Phi Beta Kappa had not come into Mills by that time. But

McLaughlin: she made a very fine record. From that time on she was looked upon as a person who has this real sense of service to the community and with an exceedingly fine judgment.

I think one of the greatest compliments that I have ever known any woman to be paid was when recently Elinor Heller, after her husband's death, was appointed to the Regents of the University of California. Some of the women graduates of the University have always been critical of the fact that no woman graduate of the University had ever been put on that board. But when Mrs. Heller was put on, there was universal satisfaction even though she was not a graduate. I think this was a great compliment to her. There was no criticism. It was not like politically, women taking their husband's places. They realized that she would be the type of regent that there would be great satisfaction with. This has been proven.

Elinor married Edward Heller and was, I think, a source of pride and happiness to her mother-in-law, Mrs. E.S. Heller who was so active in every phase of community life. This included the intellectual phase. Most people know that Mrs. E.S. Heller gave money to the University of California, I imagine in memory of her husband. It was used in the Department of Social Economics in research for which I think Emily Huntington was the...

Baum: Yes, the famous Heller committee, I think.

McLaughlin: Her mother-in-law, Mrs. E.S. Heller, was a woman generous beyond understanding to most wealthy people. She had this great sense of the value of all human beings. I can remember when in the first Chest drive, we were discussing some of the problems. She said, "As I look around this committee, there is no one from labor. I think we ought to consult labor in this matter."

I imagine that there was great congeniality between Mrs. E.H. Heller and Mrs. E.S. Heller. However, Mrs. E.H. was still a person in her own right.

Baum: You knew Mrs. Heller, Senior?

McLaughlin: Oh, yes.

Baum: And she worked with you on Community Chest drives? Is that how you knew her?

McLaughlin: I don't know. She was also interested in the League of Women Voters. Her name, I suppose, has never appeared. No, I knew her from Children's Hospital. The thing that was typical of Mrs. E.S. Heller was the fact that her generosity should not be mentioned, that it be inconspicuous. On the Children's Hospital Board a report was made by some committee or the director and the next time the board met in a month, it would be announced that whatever the difficulty was that required the money, the money had been supplied and they had gone ahead with the work. Generally, it made no difference how much money they needed, she saw that they had it. There was great generosity and an insistence that they would have no discussion about the giver. She was remarkable. She was very devoted to her son and the three grandchildren.

Baum: Did they just have one boy?

McLaughlin: Just one child, E.H. Heller, who is a graduate of the University of California. I suppose I knew Ellie Heller through her work for the League of Women Voters at one time. I have forgotten what it was--whether she was on the board or served on some committee, but she was intelligent and helpful. She soon was a trustee at Mills. When Paul Leonard, Dr. Paul Leonard, started to enlarge San Francisco State College, she was on one of his committees and also very helpful to him. I think it was the Education Committee.

Baum: Well, I think of Elinor Heller mainly in Democratic politics.

McLaughlin: Isn't that funny. I had not thought about that. I am glad you reminded me. She was a Democratic national committeewoman for California. When she was appointed, the public approved of her appointment and respected her during the period of her service. While she is devoted to the Democratic Party and for what it stands and

McLaughlin: worked very hard for it and is very understanding and clever about it, she was always a woman whose personal integrity was so great that, and this was reflected in whatever she did, it was a very unusual situation. There are very few people who have a job like that where people have so much trust. The only other time that I think people had the same feeling was for Maurice Harrison who is a Democratic national committeeman. He is a graduate of the University. His intellect and his integrity were so admired that his actions on the Democratic National Committee were very much respected.

Baum: Do you mean that Mrs. Heller was so respected that people did not think of her as a partisan politician but as a...

McLaughlin: What I meant was that she was a partisan politician; that was understood. However, any of her actions within the party were respected because they realized that she did not support things unless she felt they were right.

Baum: In other words, what she supported was notivated by principle rather than by politics?

McLaughlin: By principle, though she believed thoroughly in the two party system. This sort of an attitude is very unusual. Apparently in her work in the Democratic Party, she was very much respected. I would gather from people who knew her very well that she was very much trusted in the inner circles of the party where people knew what was going on. She was not treated as we have seen other women in the same position treated. People recognized her value.

Baum: Did she have any political aspirations of her own that you know of, or for her husband?

McLaughlin: I don't think there was the slightest thing except the thought of service. I think she was the type of person who would thoroughly enjoy all the political ramifications, also being in a position to know what was going on. I even have seen her with the simplest of Democrats and her courtesy and her manner of handling them was really remarkable. I think someone else could give you a better summary of Mrs. Heller than I

McLaughlin: have, but she has been a fine citizen.

Baum: How did you come in touch with her, in what organizations?

McLaughlin: I think it must have been through the League. She has done some social work, you know. Recently, she has been very much interested in some child care organization in San Mateo County and has done some very good work in it. I cannot tell you very much about that except what I have gathered as I go about life and I have heard her discuss it a little bit.

Baum: Did you ever come in touch with Edward Heller?

McLaughlin: Very superficially. He was a very gentle, quiet, fine person.

Baum: He was pretty active too. Well, I know he was in politics anyway.

McLaughlin: He also was a good regent or so everyone says, a fine regent. He died young; it was very pathetic. It was tragic; I felt so sorry. His mother was so devoted to him.

Baum: Was Mrs. Heller an Ehrman by any chance?

McLaughlin: Mrs. E.S. Heller was a Hellman; Ellie Heller's name was Raas. She was not a relation of Walter Haas or that group. Her mother was very much interested in the League at one time. In fact, I think, she was on the board in the early days. The father was a person with an extremely fine mind. That was her impetus.

Chester Rowell

Brewer: Among the early civic leaders, how about Chester Rowell?

McLaughlin: In various activities the Civic League and then intimately in the Institute of Pacific Relations,

McLaughlin: I found one of the really great people that I've ever known. His mind was stored with accurate material on every subject. He had judgment that was remarkable and he was utterly selfless. He took his assets as a pleasant thing in his life with a sense of responsibility with what he did with it. But I never have known a person with more mellow judgment and more understanding of human beings, who would work and contribute so much of himself in something he believed in. His attitude as a trustee and as regent of this University was far-seeing. He was always ready to help the women in the League of Women Voters. He helped in their development and believed in their open forum and was ready to be called upon. In the Institute of Pacific Relations he believed completely in what it was founded for and he gave a tremendous amount of time and effort to it--constructive effort. He never wasted himself in petty quarrels. He'd just shrug his shoulders and he was content if he could get something good--if a person contributed something that was worthwhile.

Baum: In other words, he didn't get involved in little personality squabbles.

McLaughlin: And when a good many of us got to the point in the Institute of Pacific Relations that we realized that the New York group were allowing the staff to run the organization under the leadership of a man that we did not approve of, Chester Rowell would not allow himself to be involved. He recognized that we were right. But the thing he was working for was still functioning, and that was the effort to lay some kind of a foundation for understanding the people across the Pacific.

While he was doing that he worked in so many other things. Unless you'd had a close association, you could not recognize the amount of knowledge that he had in every subject. Dr. Carl Alsberg was in the Hoover Research Institute at Stanford. He had not known Mr. Rowell in the Institute of Pacific Relations. He said, "I thought it was just a coincidence that he knew as much about food as he did. But I find it goes in every way." We had all been to a meeting in Japan in 1929. On our way home young Alsberg

McLaughlin: went around to all of these scholars, and there were a great many British and American scholars on that boat, asking the actual chemical make-up of the Japanese diet. He got to Mr. Rowell, and I had the good fortune to be there in a group with Mr. Rowell, and he gave him an immediate answer just as though he were reading the Japanese constitution. He was the only person there that knew it. With that young Alsberg started asking questions and in fifteen minutes he was surrounded by a group that grew larger and larger. We were all sitting on the deck. We got down as far as how New Zealand had been settled. Rowell said, "Now you remember the begats in the Bible, this is the way they count, about ten years for every begat." (Laughter) He went into the question of the whole story of the settlement of New Zealand by the original natives. He answered any question that came that afternoon.

Brewer: Why was he so much interested in the Institute?

McLaughlin: Because he saw in it an approach to an understanding of the peoples of the Pacific. He had seen so much trouble due to the fact that we didn't--the exclusion of the Chinese and the exclusion of the Japanese. Furthermore, he never failed a human being. At the time of the evacuation of the Japanese, we had in the office of the Institute of Pacific Relations an extremely fine young man who was half-Japanese. Jack Oakie [John H. Oakie] knew what was coming and he had prepared to give up his job and go up to a ranch in the country where his mother and step-father were. When the evacuation came, the question of these isolated individuals, Rowell went with Dr. Wilbur and Monroe Deutsch or Bob Sproul, to the authorities and got a special permit for Jack to stay where he was so that he could take care of his family.

Baum: This was during World War II. When did Rowell die?

McLaughlin: He was a little senile before he died. His contribution ended shortly after the Second World War.

Baum: I hadn't realized that he'd lived that long.

McLaughlin: Oh yes. He worked very hard during the Second World War. He stayed with the League of Nations as long as he could be of any help and then always wrote on the subject in his column. The only thing he made a mistake about was that he didn't think that we could ever change the law about alcohol, prohibition. He wrote constantly that it would need so many states and you couldn't get them. He wrote constantly that we couldn't do anything about it.

Brewer: What do you think was his most important work in the Institute?

McLaughlin: First, he was a great scholar and he understood the scholars of all the nations and they trusted him. He was so selfless about all of this and yet with this very warm human understanding. His willingness to help anything that he thought was a good movement in which you could accomplish something.

Brewer: How was he as a traveling companion?

McLaughlin: Perfectly delightful. When we came home from Honolulu in 1927, the daughter of one of the men got up early every morning and went down and found out by accident when Mr. Rowell and Dr. Alsberg met at breakfast. She said she just sat and had breakfast with them. Whatever the topic was was perfectly fascinating.

Baum: The way to get an education enjoyably.

McLaughlin: That's what Mrs. Rowell, I know, said about her son. She said, "Anything that that boy wants to know, does he go to the library? No, he just starts his father off." (Laughter) She said, "I try to make Chester realize that he's spoiling him but he so enjoys doing it." He was awfully sweet with his family and just darling with his young daughter.

Baum: Was his wife as knowledgeable as he was?

McLaughlin: She always felt she was adequate. Her generosity in lending him to the public was a lovely thing. When I say how nice he was to his children, on the way from Japan it was midnight. I don't know what I was doing wandering around the boat

McLaughlin: at midnight, but I said, "Mr. Rowell, what are you doing up at this time?" He said, mentioning his daughter's name, "She's still around and I think it's just as well for these boys to know that I'm here." At that same time he said, "Do you know what's in my cabin?" I said "No." He said, "They've discovered some liquor and they put it under my bed and I'm the guardian." (Laughter) He had great fun feeling that he was the protector of the youth on the boat.

Baum: He was opposed to Prohibition I take it, not in favor of it anyhow.

McLaughlin: I imagine he was opposed to it, I've forgotten. You know we were getting so that people were really drinking less and less. This is the thing that's horrible to look back on. There was really a sentiment of there getting to be more and more recognition that the heavy drinking of a long time past was stupid. Of course, then along comes Prohibition. There's never been anything like the drinking there is now.

Baum: You're saying that you think Prohibition turned back the step toward intelligent drinking.

McLaughlin: To my way of thinking it did. The one thing that you have to recognize about the cocktail party is that it's one way to entertain a great many people now that there are not the houses with a lot of servants and so forth.

Brewer: Where did Rowell stand politically? I know he was a Republican.

McLaughlin: All the presidents used him at different times. His paper was Republican. After he sold his paper he was working for the Chronicle and it was Republican. He was not the type of person that was an advocate really. You'd have to go over his papers to know whether he took a definite stand on anything. What his attitude toward Mr. Hoover was, I don't know. I think by the time Mr. Hoover had been President for a couple of years he recognized that his great contributions had been in other fields, not political.

Baum: Did you remain a Democrat as your father had been?

McLaughlin: I never voted for a Republican until I voted for Hoover, and was that a mistake! (Laughter)

Baum: So many of the Progressive ladies were Republican, weren't they?

McLaughlin: You know, family religions, family political association. I never dropped a Republican vote without saying to my father's memory, "Will you please excuse me." (Laughter)

Brewer: You and Rowell worked together on the League of Nations, didn't you?

McLaughlin: I don't remember, I suppose we did. It was during the time he did a tremendous amount of debating on the League at the Johnson time.

Brewer: Did he ever indicate how disastrous it was for him, as far as Johnson was concerned?

McLaughlin: No. This was a belief of his. He believed in international organizations. He recognized the weaknesses but he made a magnificent speech. It was good political science when he did it. He worked awfully hard and he was absolutely objective about the whole thing. This was a chance to do something. And he took the stand and, my, he worked hard on it. He and Neylan debated a great deal. I don't know whether he ever debated with Johnson or not, I doubt it.

Brewer: But he and Neylan did debate.

McLaughlin: Oh my, yes. They did it for the League once. This is typical of Neylan. Neylan never got over it. He felt that there was something sinister in the fact--he was not accustomed to being on an unpopular side. I think he felt about the same with the debate he had with Rowell about the League as he did at the time Hiram Johnson spoke to the League of Women Voters. Johnson thought there was a claque against him.

Brewer: How did he react?

McLaughlin: He didn't like it.

Brewer: Did he get angry?

McLaughlin: I can't remember that he made any sign of it.

John Francis Neylan

And Neylan thought there was a claque there that day. Neylan was there watching his boss and he just resented having his boss unpopular. He resented it himself when he debated with Rowell. He never phoned after that. I'd occasionally bump into him and he'd take me on.

Baum: Were you part of the claque for the League of Nations?

McLaughlin: I presided at a couple of these meetings and this he couldn't forget. This was funny because actually he was very devoted to a cousin of ours that was just like another sister. He was darling with her. And his wife was always awfully nice to me. I don't mean there was any intimacy but it was just pleasant. But he couldn't bear not to come out and say something, no matter where I was.

Brewer: Have you told Willa the story of the meeting in the elevator?

McLaughlin: I once got into an elevator downtown filled with men. Suddenly from the back of the elevator came this voice, a curious rasping voice, "Say, Mrs. McLaughlin." I turned around. Neylan said, "Do you and Chet Rowell and two other old women believe in the League of Nations?" (Laughter) I said, "Certainly I do." He wasn't accustomed to being on anything but the popular side. He should be devoted to [Hiram] Johnson. Johnson made him, or gave him his chance. He was a good public figure. But he was good on that finance board--I don't know what the name of it was.

Brewer: State Board of Control.

McLaughlin: He was good, he understood the issues. He was a fine person.

Baum: I wanted to ask you a little more about John Francis Neylan.

McLaughlin: John Francis Neylan we all know had been a reporter, and he had charge of finances on the Board of Control. All through that period he was a real liberal and a great friend of things that were worthwhile. He was a devoted follower of Johnson's as long as Johnson lived. He swallowed hook, line, and sinker everything in regard to Johnson's point of view about the League of Nations.

Baum: That fitted in with his ideas, too.

McLaughlin: In the meantime he had an office of his own and made a great deal of money. I think he worked very closely with Mr. Hearst which meant more money. Then he was a changed human being, he seemed to be. He wasn't helping on any liberal movements. Of course he was on the Board of Regents. I don't know that he ever did anything creative on the Board of Regents.

Baum: He did, I think. He did a lot of damage, too.

McLaughlin: Toward the end he got to this question of taxes all the time.

In his personal relationships he could be perfectly charming, and as kind as they make them. I know from Miss Mosgrove, that Mrs. Hooker's estate, which was a very large one was reconstructed completely. She followed his advice. She didn't mind living simply and so forth, until he got her fixed up. She was accustomed to giving a great deal away.

I had a cousin that was just like a younger sister, slightly younger than we were, and he was wonderful to her. She was a great friend of his wife and he loved her dearly and was perfectly wonderful to her. He was her attorney and saw that she was properly cared for in every way. She had money and he advised her. He was a fine friend.

Baum: Someone told me his wife was a very cultivated lady.

McLaughlin: Oh yes, a lovely person.

Baum: She ran a school, didn't she?

McLaughlin: I think she was a school teacher. She was older than he was. She's a lovely, lovely person, a lovely nature, and he adored her. He was just darling with her. Those were the nice things about him.

Baum: And she took no active part in civic movements or so on?

McLaughlin: No. No one ever holds anything against her. Ida Sproul goes to see her. Ida's an angel, you know.

Baum: I know. But the way Neylan and Sproul fought it out.

McLaughlin: I know, Mrs. Sproul never forgave the things he said but that didn't deter her when Mrs. Neylan had a fall and has been an invalid; she's very sweet and goes to see Mrs. Neylan. She really is sweet, a delightful person. Up to a certain point he was a very constructive citizen and he knew the state very well and was generous to organizations. When he dropped out of the state he still advised the League. When we had to go up and meet Nellie Pierce, he advised us just how to handle it. He cared very deeply for a long time.

Baum: So you feel he changed somewhere in the late twenties.

McLaughlin: It may have been when he got money. Or it may have been that when he found himself very unpopular because of Mr. Johnson. He couldn't take unpopularity. He just couldn't take it. He didn't understand it. It may have been money.

International Relations: Helen Douglas

McLaughlin: You ought to have interviewed Helen Douglas. [Mrs. W.W. Douglas] She was a scholar who was respected by all. Her interest in international relations was as scholarly as anybody in a university. There was nothing in the way of international relations that could be brought up that Helen didn't have absolutely accurate knowledge of. She did an absolutely magnificent piece of work there for the League of Women Voters for years.

Baum: Is she on the World Affairs Council?

McLaughlin: Yes, she worked on our study groups. She worked in the Mills Institute of International Relations. She worked very hard for several years. She moderated several of those institutes and showed scholarship in that which was simply magnificent. She demanded of herself such perfection. In those institutes out at Mills, when it was all over she was just, she was more than exhausted. She demanded perfection of herself. Her scholarship would excite anybody's admiration.

Baum: Fine scholarship is one thing, and ability to moderate is another.

McLaughlin: She presided over all of the open sessions and then summed them up the next morning in order to start that day off. I am sure that she spent many a night up all night long. It was magnificent capability.

Baum: This was her chief interest, international relations rather than local politics.

McLaughlin: She had a great sense of community responsibility but in international relations she was impassioned. Emily Huntington and I had been discussing how badly she looked.*

Baum: Mrs. Douglas was in the dinner club I've heard so much about. Can you tell me about that group?

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*Mrs. Douglas died about that time.

Idea Exchange: Thirty Years of "The Score"

McLaughlin: Mrs. Stanwood thirty years ago gathered a group of professional women and diluted them with a few people on the periphery. [Originally there were twenty members and the group has always been called The Score. H.B.] The numbers have dwindled gradually and it hasn't been as fine a group as it was in the beginning. The beginning was Mrs. Sloss, and Katherine Felton, Dr. Adelaide Brown, and Aurelia Reinhardt, and people of that type. Helen Douglas, you could turn to her any time that group met. If a speaker had failed or somebody was ill, she would have the ability to take some substitute in international relations right up.

Baum: This group of women that you spoke of, what did they do?

McLaughlin: We just enjoyed ourselves.

Baum: Was this a regular meeting?

McLaughlin: Once a month.

Baum: For no specific purpose but to feed each other ideas.

McLaughlin: I think its chief value was the interchange of ideas. Of course, some of the original people were not just as fond of everyone in the meeting. Mrs. Stanwood picked her friends or the people who were stimulating and interesting. It was valuable for those of us who were invited to see the magnificent mind that she had. Generally it would be on something that would be tremendously interesting to the others in the group who did not have the exact news and interest about it. From the beginning, I think, the professional women ordinarily did not take the time out for this sort of thing. They gathered together. Everybody enjoyed it.

Baum: Was this Mrs. Stanwood's intention, sort of a social gathering?

McLaughlin: She chose the group in the beginning, then if anybody dropped out she would supplement her. Now it has grown very small. Every once in awhile I suggested that we enlarge it, then they would discuss how.

Mrs. Stanwood just gathered these people together and invited them to dinner. Every month we would meet. For awhile we would meet at restaurants or clubs. Then, finally, it was simpler to meet in people's houses. Then these people who were added to it after these other people died, did not want to get it any larger than twelve or fourteen because of the burden of entertaining in a house.

Baum: More people than that cannot really discuss things together anyway.

McLaughlin: That is just it. When we were at Emily Huntington's the last time, we had a most cordial and comfortable time with just eight people and we got a great deal out of it. It was much better than a lot of people talking too much. It brought in enough people who were doing interesting work that you had a touch from outside your own circle. I think that is what it amounted to.

Baum: This must have been organized quite a long time ago.

McLaughlin: It must have been 25 or 30 years ago.

Baum: So this has been going for almost 30 years? Not on a monthly basis?

McLaughlin: Dropped it off in the summer time. Now we do it very simply; we just send out our own notices. We just send out a double postal when it will be at your house. Find out a few months ahead of time when it will be convenient. But we did not want to go to Dr. Bridgeman's at Christmas time because we wanted to be there when the garden, she has a lovely garden, so we wanted to wait until the spring to see the flowers. Or we are coming here over the Christmas holidays because Ruth Turner is sure to cook.

Baum: So it is sort of based on circumstances.

Baum: This group calls itself "The Score."

McLaughlin: It's a friendly group that just decides where they will do it. When it was up to twenty, you did not do it every year, two people would combine--no one ever asked Miss Felton to ever do anything like that.

Baum: Who are the present people? You said there are only eight now.

McLaughlin: Emily Huntington, Ruth Turner, Dr. Evelyn Little, former librarian at Mills, Dr. Mary Woods Bennett at Mills, Dean Towle, Dr. Mary Layman, Mrs. Philip Conley--she was Phoebe McClatchy from Fresno and is now a trustee of the state colleges.

Baum: Phoebe McClatchy was her maiden name?

McLaughlin: No, she was Phoebe Briggs and married Carlos McClatchy; now she is Mrs. Philip Conley. He died.

Baum: That is from the McClatchy newspapers.

McLaughlin: Mrs. Clinton Walker, now Mrs. James van Loben Sels. She brought in the artistic group. Georgiana Stevens [Mrs. Harley Stevens] and Mrs. Frank Gerbode.

Baum: That sounds like a very interesting group.

McLaughlin: Dorothy Williams added a great deal to it. She always had some interest. She handled people well and so forth. Oh, Mary Hutchinson, Mrs. Mary Hutchinson. For instance, Mary phoned me this morning. She has this great friend in the east who has worked for Women in Industry that will be out here and she said that she has just been doing some very interesting--she was consultant on a very interesting piece of work. "If she gets here on time, would you like her to speak before the group on the new work she is doing?"

I always try to bring in a couple of outsiders when it is here. We have room here. It happens that the set up of this household makes it simple to do it. I try to bring in some people. Oh, Dr. Willitts had been on it for years. We have had some very fine physicians. She was very fine.

CHAPTER IX

WOMEN IN POLITICS

Baum: Do you think more women should go into politics?

McLaughlin: We have had too few women who could see a way in politics. I very much regret that women feel politics has to be dirty business.

I consider it most unfortunate that the best brains in America decline the allure of politics. I think of what happened to me once. I had reviewed a couple of books by James Weldon Johnson, a Negro, at the Century Club. Mrs. Garret McEnerney came out and said, "Mrs. McLaughlin, for a politician like you, you have done very well." I said, "Mrs. McEnerney, I consider that a great compliment. I wish to be a politician, but I am not smart enough." She thought that she was being nasty to me. Now that is what happens because, of course, politics is very demanding and it takes judgment and astuteness.

Baum: And a stable personality.

McLaughlin: Yes, and you have got to be quick and smart. You have to have the judgment of being able to see how far you can go.

I do feel this criticism leveled at women in America; we were given the suffrage, what have we done with it? This is true in California. I think we have done more on ballot propositions than we have ever done in political office. Why don't women go into the political office is the question we might ask.

In San Francisco we had one remarkable woman supervisor, Mary Morgan. That can't be said about the present one that is there.

McLaughlin: Why do women go on? It was a terrible wrench for me in my own case. I was in the hospital bed when they wanted me to succeed Mrs. Morgan. I sat in that room while the men who had elected Mrs. Morgan tried to force me into it. I said, "I just cannot go into that campaign. You are making my pulse go to 120 now!"

There are people who would have liked Carolyn to go into politics. Well, she had to choose what was right in her life. She is a very fine mother, and she is a very devoted and understanding wife. I am just talking about two things that I do know about.

Brewer: Speaking of women in politics, did you know Mrs. Blaney or Mrs. Porter?

McLaughlin: I knew Mrs. Blaney, but not at this time. Which Mrs. Porter?

Brewer: The one who was a delegate along with Mrs. Blaney to the Republican Convention in 1912.

McLaughlin: I don't know her. Mrs. Blaney lent herself constructively to the things that she believed in, but was not very active on the outside. She helped in a great many fine things. She was a very fine person.

Brewer: How did she happen to be elected as a delegate to the Republican Convention?

Baum: There were a lot of women Progressives.

Brewer: Yes, but these were the first two women delegates ever to go to a national convention.

McLaughlin: I didn't know this about Mrs. Blaney because she was so delightfully--well, she was a charming elderly woman when I knew her, with good sense about the things that she backed.

Brewer: One woman who went to that convention, but not as a delegate--she went with her husband--was Mrs. Philip Bancroft.

McLaughlin: Mrs. Philip Bancroft had a very fine mind. She and her husband were great Progressives and great

McLaughlin: leaders as Progressives, really very fine. They left San Francisco and went over to Walnut Creek on a farm. He began taking the farmer's point of view and they switched all of their energies to that side. Mrs. Bancroft was a woman with exceptional ability.

Baum: Wasn't Mrs. Philip Bancroft active politically? I think she did some work with one of the Steinhart girls, not Amy.

McLaughlin: There was Rose and Hilda.

Baum: I suppose it was Rose. They were Progressives together.

McLaughlin: In the days when they followed Johnson she was a very vigorous person. In the years after they went on the other side, she always was a person that did a great deal of interesting reading and she could back up her point of view completely.

Baum: Did she switch with her husband in her ideas?

McLaughlin: Her husband's experience was that farmers needed protection. It's very hard for urban-minded people to know what some of this means. It isn't just braceros and that sort of thing.

Mrs. Philip Bancroft was always consistently loyal to an idea that she believed in. And she was a brilliant woman, awfully interesting. It isn't nice to have once been very popular because you're a liberal and then to be attacked. It's hard.

Baum: Now what about Mrs. John Ward Maillard? I have her listed as being in politics.

McLaughlin: Well, Mrs. Ward Maillard, Jr....

Baum: I am thinking of the mother of the Congressman, William Maillard.

McLaughlin: I think her husband was Ward Maillard, Jr. I am not sure, but I think so. She was born and brought up in Belvedere. Her name was Peterson, not that that will help you at all. Her husband was one of the very rare human beings in San

McLaughlin: Francisco. I think, as a businessman Ward Maillard had as much respect as any man of his age in San Francisco. He had great integrity and great intelligence, and was deeply interested in a great many community projects for the Academy of Sciences. He was very much interested in that.

Now, I have never known Mrs. Ward Maillard in politics except since her son went into politics. She may have been interested in that before. She has done a very interesting thing on a ranch in Mendocino County. How she got started on it, I am not sure. I presume they bought this very fine property. They had three sons and they bought this property which has three very fine Sequoia groves. She became very much interested in sheep. Just how this happened, I don't know. I think she was trying to develop from the Australian sheep by crossing them in certain ways with maybe some domestic sheep, she was trying to develop both wool and meat. She has put a tremendous amount of time and energy and absolutely accurate records. This cannot be called a leisure pastime because what she does is desperately hard work.

She has developed some apparently remarkable results. She does a great deal of personal work with it. The first time I was ever on the place was fairly recently. We got there during lamb season. There were twin lambs being born all over the place the whole time we were there. She works as the leader on this. These are all very carefully bred sheep. She has the most accurate records, and she has a whole wall filled with her prizes for the sheep which is a very unusual thing for a woman to do.

Baum: Was she from an agricultural family? Had she had any agricultural training?

McLaughlin: No, I don't know how she started. I really don't know much about her, I just made her acquaintance recently. Now when her son went into politics, the whole family turned out to help him. By that time Mr. Maillard was stricken and died young, but this was a continuous illness. It was, I should say, something like leukemia.

Baum: What was his business?

McLaughlin: Exporter-importer. He and his sons, maybe his father was too, they are all graduates of Yale. I don't know who was more respected and beloved than he was. Then she did throw herself into helping her son and into Republican politics. She was a thorough believer in the Republican Party and has done her share of working for it.

When her son was on the United States delegation to the United Nations she went on and visited him. She became very much interested in watching the action of the United Nations as she saw it.

Baum: And does she work in the World Affairs Council?

McLaughlin: No, she could not possibly give to that ranch up there, the time that she gives and to very much on the outside.

Baum: Does she live up there now?

McLaughlin: No, she has a home right down here just two blocks down on Jackson Street and lives very nicely there. She is back and forth. It is about 125 miles. You can go up in a short time; but when she is there, she really is the manager. She does just all the labor along with bringing sheep into the world.

Baum: That is an unusual thing for a woman.

McLaughlin: Yes, it is. She has done it so accurately that scientists recognize what she has done. Now whether she and her husband got started on it and then she took it over, I cannot tell you you. All I know is her results and her work has been recognized by all the experts in this sort of thing. It is an unusual vocation.

Then you know she worked for Shelley for Mayor. She did her best because they tried to feel that the mayor was not partisan. I don't know how she feels about him now. One of her sons is on the Police Commission. They have all been brought up with a high sense of public

McLaughlin: performance, I think.*

Baum: I have Mrs. Milton Esberg, Sr.

McLaughlin: Mrs. Milton Esberg for the first part of her life was a remarkable wife to Milton Esberg who was one of the tremendously active people in all civic affairs; there was one time that the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce had as their president and on their board of directors a group of very strong men. Mr. Wallace Alexander, Milton Esberg, Clay Miller, Marshall Dill, Fred Koster. There has never been anything like that group since. Milton Esberg's interests were very wide and very numerous. He and Bernard Dohrmann were the leaders in the first Chest drive after the Community Chest had been organized by Morgan Gunst. He worked in that very hard for years. Included in their many interests were the musical interests. They had a great interest in the opera and in the symphony. I would say that was her principal interest since his death.

Baum: In music and cultural activities.

McLaughlin: She was a Lilienthal. The Lilienthal family were leaders. Her mother was, I think, a Sloss. There were the Sloss's, the Lilienthal's, even before the Hellman's came here. She belonged to a very fine Jewish family. She has been keenly interested in musical things.

Baum: Is she a musician herself?

McLaughlin: I don't think so. She may be. She has been a stalwart Republican.

Baum: Yes, I had her down as active in Republican work.

McLaughlin: She may or may not have some kind of position on the Republican party. I don't think so. I think she is an absolutely sincere and convinced person that it has to be a two-party system, and she accepts the actions of the Republican Party. She is very well read. And, of course, like many

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*An article on Mrs. Maillard's ranch activities has since appeared in the October 1968 of San Francisco magazine. W.B.

McLaughlin: of the Jewesses of her era, they are linguists, and travel a great deal. Her summer home is in Marin County; she has been a leader in garden work. They had really magnificent gardens there and did a great deal of entertaining. Now I have known her since we were in school together.

Baum: She went to U.C.?

McLaughlin: No, she never went through college. Those people get it by travel. I don't know what she did after she finished at Miss West's. I imagine that she traveled, and I imagine that she married quite young. All the things that he went into, she worked right along with him. Mrs. Esberg gave much time and attention to the community.

Baum: Was she active in any of the groups that you were in during the 1920's?

McLaughlin: Not that I remember. I remember her once saying to me with regard to membership in the League of Women Voters. It was something she did not do, but she was glad that someone did. Therefore, she had a membership in it just to...

Baum: A non-active membership?

McLaughlin: Yes, but she is very much alive and very much interested in all sorts of phases of the community life. Now I may not have gotten a complete judgment because a great many people found her very helpful, but I have known her principally in the charming way that she and he entertained for years over in Marin County, or here but mainly over in Marin County.

When there was that first drive to establish the Community Chest, he worked tremendously hard and was a very helpful figure in it for several years.

Baum: I have a note on Bernice Hubbard May.

McLaughlin: You mean in the East Bay in Berkeley?

Baum: Yes, wasn't she active in some of these groups?

McLaughlin: You remember she was president of the League of Women Voters of California in one of their most

McLaughlin: prominent periods. She was a trained social worker, I think. In that work I just knew her. I don't even know the phases of the fine work she has done.

Baum: When she was a social worker?

McLaughlin: Yes. I knew her after she was Mrs. Sam May. He had an important position in the community.

Baum: He founded the Bureau of Public Administration, which is now the Institute of Governmental Studies at U.C.

McLaughlin: Everyone was very happy about it because she was a very attractive, fine person with a well trained mind. His life had been very unhappy. He worked nicely and they worked together. My intimate knowledge of her was when she was in the League of Women Voters in Berkeley and then became president of the state League.

Then afterwards Mrs. May was very much convinced, naturally with the sort of husband she had, of the necessity of public work. She was on the Berkeley City Council after he died. He had always felt that was one of the essentials. From that Council there was this question about education and, finally, Proposition 14. I have always had a great deal of respect for her. Whether she was too much to the left or not, I would feel that she was not.

I think I can illustrate that. My sister had known her in the Sierra Club. She had some Sierra Club people here one day for lunch. Mrs. May stated her point of view; the week following we had a friend of mine who took the absolutely different attitude on the Berkeley City Council, Mrs. Lee Breckinridge Thomas.

Baum: You are speaking of Proposition 14?

McLaughlin: On the Council and the Negro situation in the schools. Mrs. May works for what she believes in. She believes very thoroughly that you don't solve the Negro educational problem by anything except housing. The reason that she feels so deeply on the housing was because you must not have neighborhood schools and have the Negroes

McLaughlin: held to one spot. Well, there should not be all Negroes in one school. There are bound to be if the housing was not handled properly. She feels the connection between education and housing is one of the things that must be remedied. She has said this publicly again and again.

Well, it is a very difficult problem and she has gone along with what she believed in and what she has fought for. She is a brave woman.

You know she had my complete sympathy over the plans that she and Sam made to go to Bologna. They worked so hard and learned the language and were looking upon this experience with so much thought and work. Then he died just as they were ready to take the boat. She took this with courage and even went and visited there afterwards, Bologna. She is a woman of courage and she is a woman of judgment too. I don't mean to say that I always agreed with her but I admired her tremendously.

Baum: I think you often listen to people on both sides of the question and respect their views.

McLaughlin: There are some people that I have listened to who have said words but they never fooled me. How do you feel about it?

Baum: About Mrs. May? I think she is a fine person and a very great asset to our community.

McLaughlin: I think that we owe her a great deal. Now is there somebody else?

Baum: You mentioned that you had met Mrs. Lee Breckinridge Thomas. She is Mrs. May's major opponent, I think, or was for so many years on the Berkeley City Council. Really represented the other side.

McLaughlin: Lee, again, is a dedicated person. She was a Keppler and I knew her at the time she was in college although she is younger than I am. She is an intense person who again will stand for what she believes in; she believes thoroughly in the Republican Party. She is a convinced conservative and my only question would be whether her judgment with regard to an infiltration of

McLaughlin: Communists is clear. This is a question on which I have not had her experience. Now maybe she has had enough experience with the leftist groups in Berkeley to feel that there should be great fear, that there is a justifiable fear. I am not sure.

But she again dedicates herself to what she believes. I must say, she showed great courage to get off the Council when she felt that she had been on there long enough. It gave her a real object in life and was a great stimulus. She is a fine person but she is very intense and has a single track mind. Now I have not lived in Berkeley long enough to know whether the leftist groups do want to infiltrate.

Mrs. May paid Lee a compliment actually. She said, "You know, we are missing her terribly." She had great value in bringing before that Council certain aspects that the rest of us had passed over lightly. Lee was a very valuable person on that Council. Now that she has left, she said, "Now we are beginning to realize how much we miss that careful bringing up of the other side." You can see what that would be, don't you think so?

Baum: She was consistent I think; she represented a consistent point of view. It was in opposition to Mrs. May considerably and consistently.

McLaughlin: I thought that was very sporting of Mrs. May to say how much they missed her.

Lee has within her heritage some interesting qualities. She was a cousin of Sophia Breckinridge's* who was a great social worker. She was working in Chicago. She was, of course, a Southerner who worked very hard in trying to get changed conditions for the remnants of people left behind in the Southern states.

Baum: Oh, this is her cousin?

McLaughlin: Yes. Lee's name was Lee Breckinridge and she had a lovely mother. But Sophia Breckinridge was a great social worker and, I think, she was on the faculty at the University of Chicago and worked with the people trying to do something for that

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*Sophoniska Preston Breckinridge, Ph.D., prominent Chicago social worker, associate professor of Social Economy, University of Chicago.

McLaughlin: remnant of mountain people who had stayed behind in the mountains of Tennessee, Kentucky, and North Carolina.

Baum: There is recent work on the Appalachian type people; was this a long time ago?

McLaughlin: Sophia Breckinridge was very well known during the 1920's and the early 1930's as a social worker. She was a national figure in social work. She was a cousin. I am very fond of Lee. She is very loyal. I have seen her do some very kind and understanding things with people. This was when she, not before she went into politics. She was a devoted wife and a lovely mother. She has always been very positive, the thing was black or white, this was Lee. Now who else.

Baum: I was wondering about Lucretia Grady, did you know her? Henry and Lucretia Grady?

McLaughlin: Lucretia Grady--you'd have to get her background of degrees because I don't know--I think that she and Henry went to Columbia together. I knew her first when he was dean of the College of Commerce here. Of course, he was very close to people in San Francisco. During the depression, in fact, he worked with the Chamber of Commerce. He was secretary and so forth. She worked very actively with the Federated Clubs. You realize when you go back to her beginnings that she was a del Valle and they had a great ranch near Los Angeles. Her father was very distinguished looking. There was no Indian or Mexican in him. He was very distinguished. She, as a girl, was Ramona in the play down at San Gabriel. That's one background.

When Henry Grady was dean of the College of Commerce she was working with the Federated Clubs and was tremendously interested in educating them in international relations. She worked awfully hard. I don't know whether in those days her manner of handling things was as it is now. She'll take the chairmanship from somebody and she'd get all of the committees set up and then she does all the work. She has one or two people that come and know her method of working and carry anything that she needs.

Baum: But she doesn't delegate, she does it.

McLaughlin: In those days, when I first knew her, she was running the meetings in international relations. When she was doing it here around the Bay. In those days some people didn't understand that--all this excessive cordiality. People think that's all a bluff. At the moment she's telling you how much she loves you, she means it. But you've got to realize that she just feels dedicated to the causes of what's right in the world. She and Henry worked beautifully together. When he was in the State Department, working on a trade treaty, she ran open forums.

I saw Lucretia yesterday. I'm one of her warm admirers because I saw her with her husband. I just loved him a great deal. He was such a fine person. His mind was so much better than his appearance. In the government he'd be very fine because I've seen him handle some of these people that thought they had him in a corner. They'd take advantage of him because they thought he was a little soft. He'd put them right in their place. He knew how to do it in a very nice way. I imagine he was a very good ambassador.

Baum: I've heard quite a bit about him as ambassador to Greece.

McLaughlin: He was every place. He was a fine person. It's my distinct belief that he died because when his son-in-law John Davies was treated by Dulles the way he was, that Mr. Grady was so deeply outraged that it just broke his heart. It was awfully hard for him to take, not because it was his son-in-law, but that anybody was being treated so unjustly. It was awfully hard on him.

Baum: How many children did they have?

McLaughlin: There was one daughter, who was Mrs. John Davies, and three boys. There's one who is quite active in San Francisco.

Baum: Mrs. Grady must have been quite busy being so active in civic work. Then I think that as an ambassador's wife she was very active, also.

McLaughlin: There's no doubt about that. Wherever she went. Of course, she was very active as a Democrat. She worked very hard for Stevenson. She was a very dedicated Democrat. She had worked with

McLaughlin: some Republicans and had been very decent to them. She has her own method of working and she works like a dog. She has four or five people who when she calls them, just go to it and work and do it in her way.

Baum: Who are some of the women she's worked with for a long time?

McLaughlin: Jack James' wife is one of them. She has a group of three or four that just take care of her. I think it's awfully hard to be an ex-ambassador of three countries when you haven't got a big income.

Baum: Oh yes, any of those social positions.

McLaughlin: When people would pass through here--Henry Grady had really been president of the American Lines as well.

Baum: I guess the tradition is that ambassadors are usually wealthy people to begin with. Perhaps it's necessary with all the social obligations that are placed upon them.

McLaughlin: People have to understand that this remarkably cordial manner was just Lucretia. You take all her flattery and just rub it off. Basically she's a fine person.

Baum: Well, it seems that a lot of the ladies interested in civic affairs were not too active politically. Am I right in saying that?

McLaughlin: They were not. On the side lines they were always interested.

Baum: Maybe it would damage your work to be too partisan or to be known as partisan.

McLaughlin: No, I don't think that they were afraid of that. It was my impression that most of these people would find it rather hard to be for one party. You see the state itself didn't break up on political lines because there was cross filing. The League of Women Voters were the leaders in changing that.

McLaughlin: I talked this over two or three years ago when I wanted to see the United States Supreme Court in action. Somehow I got a person to arrange for it. Chief Justice Warren felt that he had to see us. I'll say for him that he did his homework before I came in. You see, when Jesse Steinhart first started managing his political career when he ran for governor, he asked me to be one of his endorsers and I was for two years. So he had looked this all up. Also he had the League Commission. He talked to me very seriously about this cross filing and said that there was better government with this cross filing. This is really true, but we have to have a two-party system.

There are very few people that you have talked to me about with the exception of Mrs. Prince who could endorse all of the candidates or work for them. All candidates of one party, I mean. Now, I am sure that Mrs. Lilienthal is a Democrat and I think that she is a very strong Democrat. One of our fundamental approaches would be to better the lives of everybody. But there are very few Republican women that I know who could be for Goldwater, even those who never voted other than Republican. I never met but one person the whole time who justified being for Goldwater. She justified it thusly: She said that she believed in the two-party system.

Baum: I know someone that you know who was for Goldwater, Mrs. Philip Bancroft.

McLaughlin: Isn't that a contradiction! They were good leaders under Hiram Johnson. After they got down in the valley and were in a struggle with the farm unions and that sort of thing, she was very interested about it. They were both deeply hurt when he ran for Senator, the attacks that were hurled at him, really vicious attacks.

CHAPTER X

CALIFORNIA GOVERNORS

Governor Hiram Johnson

Brewer: How would you summarize Hiram Johnson as governor? Do you think he was a successful governor?

McLaughlin: I think he was very good for California. You're really asking me all of this in the period where I just was somebody that was an also-ran. I think the total effect when he was governor, and we've always gone about and said that he was a good governor, people could appreciate most of the things he did. He was not a good senator. And it's not only on international relations.

Brewer: When Hiram Johnson was governor, do you remember the impact, say, of initiative and referendum?

McLaughlin: Why yes, we thought the world was going to be saved. (Laughter) Now we find that human nature, whatever your mechanics about voting are, people that are accustomed to power find a way to use the system that was put in and thought to be revolutionary. I will say what a man who was one of the most powerful people in Nevada said about direct election of senators, the direct election of Senator Samuel Shortridge, "I've sat in many a smoke-filled room but I'll tell you no convention would have dared to put a 'comic Valentine" like that up." (Laughter)

Brewer: That was Shortridge. [U.S. Senator, 1921-1927]

McLaughlin: He was a man of business and a fine citizen from Nevada who just looked at it from the standpoint of, "What did you get?"

Brewer: Did you have any reaction when judicial recall was put through? That being one of the king-pin measures along with initiative, and the one that was opposed most violently.

McLaughlin: I thought this was just one of the things that was going to help make America a better place. Why I didn't trust the courts I don't know.

Brewer: There were circumstances in 1907 and 1908.

McLaughlin: You had a feeling that this would give you a strengthened situation. I think we haven't used it very much.

Brewer: How about Johnson's conservation program? Did you follow that? Your family was in ranching.

McLaughlin: I think probably my point of view about that wouldn't have gone along with Johnson on attacking private industry and developing hydro-electrical power, for the simple reason of the inherent situation in California. In the development of hydro-electric power you have to realize the tremendous risks that were taken by private industry and also the tremendous losses that were taken by the early men who did it. Plus the fact that Mr. Chester Rowell expressed better later on--I said to him, "Why are the people in the Tennessee Valley rushing to state ownership?" He said, "If you had gone, as I did, to the meetings of the people who controlled utilities, you'd realize that we were blessed in California because there was such a good commission here with a tradition that went back many years." Rowell himself was on it. He said, "I think the reason that more people in California were prepared for private industry was because it was well controlled in California."

Light and power people, on the whole, were superior. He said the people who were in similar positions in the Middle West were a very inferior group, which made those people feel it was far better to have it publicly owned. I think that tradition has probably gone along. I suspect that

McLaughlin: it's due to the fact that Johnson had such great people on the Railroad Commission. You see, it was the Railroad Commission that stopped public utilities. I think it's because Johnson's appointments were so good. Wasn't Jack Eshleman the chairman of that?

Brewer: He was indeed.

McLaughlin: Rowell said we had a history of good appointments. He said this to me in the '20s.

Brewer: Some people thought that Eshleman's work--some of the Progressives at the time--was the most important contribution to Johnson's administration. Do you think so?

McLaughlin: I didn't know enough about it. I didn't have any conviction except that I felt quite sure that if Jack Eshleman did anything it would be good. (Laughter) In college he gained my admiration and confidence.

Brewer: Did your family talk about his commission--it was the Railroad Commission. They had equalized railroad rates.

McLaughlin: I've forgotten except that it was a very stirring time when they were trying to do a great many fine things. There was good leadership.

Brewer: From your point of view, who were the outstanding women who had state appointments during Hiram Johnson's administration?

McLaughlin: His appointments were remarkable. The first one, of course, that we were closest to was Adelaide Brown's position on the State Board of Health. At first she was a great advocate of certified milk. She had, I think, one of the finest testimonies given to her by some of the men that worked with her on the State Board of Health; that she had been a very constructive member.

Brewer: Was Alicia Mosgrove one of his appointments?

McLaughlin: No. Then, Mrs. Gibson. She was Hugh Gibson's mother. She was from Los Angeles. There was no group in San Francisco that were as well prepared or as powerful as the women like Mrs. Gibson from

McLaughlin: Southern California, in that Friday Morning Club. There was a trained group of women there.

Baum: What was that Friday Morning Club?

McLaughlin: It was a social club but they had very good forums and it was very well done.*

Mrs. Gibson was chairman of what was then called the Americanization Committee. This, I presume, was under the Department of Education. We had a very good superintendent of schools, Will Wood, at the time. He was the best state superintendent we ever had and the man that always talked about the necessity of having an appointive superintendent of schools.

Brewer: How about Mrs. Katherine Philips Edson?

McLaughlin: Oh yes. She was the Director, wasn't she, of the Department of Social Welfare?

Brewer: And she worked for the state minimum wage law. She was the Executive Secretary of the Industrial Welfare Commission.

McLaughlin: Johnson's appointments were exceedingly good, especially with women. I really feel terribly ashamed that I can't give you more names. He had some very fine women from Southern California. He got them from the Friday Morning Club in Los Angeles. Fifty years ago the Friday Morning Club was a very vigorous organization and a great many of his appointments came from women who had been in that club. What's become of the Friday Morning Club I don't know.

Brewer: Did Johnson really kick the Southern Pacific out of government in California?

McLaughlin: I feel that this is the sort of thing that to be really sure of you have to study. As long as

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*See article by Thelma Hubbell and Gloria Lothrop, "The Friday Morning Club, a Los Angeles Legacy" in March, 1968, Southern California Quarterly. W.K.B.

McLaughlin: Herrin lived, could he do this? Or did the publicity just kill it off? I think that really by his exposes, Johnson made people realize the stranglehold the Southern Pacific had on the states, and they did.

Brewer: Did your father, for example, have anything to do with Southern Pacific?

McLaughlin: I don't say he took any part of it, but my gracious, they were so political. The man who was there in Sacramento was there just for the legislature and so on. Herrin was a power to be deeply feared and hated, there's no doubt about it. And he had power and he used it for the Southern Pacific.

Brewer: Did your father run into any difficulties, say with rates?

McLaughlin: Oh, anybody doing business would. It was just sickening.

Recently, Time had an article on the then-president of the Southern Pacific and I thought to myself, "Maybe I ought to stop hating them." (Laughter) Anybody my age that didn't hate the Southern Pacific, there was something wrong with them. I can remember incidences when my father would say, "I have to go to Herrin and see whether there's anything that we can do to get this matter straightened out." This would be just about shipping cattle. Their power up and down the state was a stranglehold.

My mature attitude is this: It meant a great deal to California to have them come in here. They were given tremendous grants in order to get them in. Without that they wouldn't have done it. Those four men at the top deserved lots of credit. We had a railroad to connect us with the Atlantic Coast, which was absolutely vital. The brains and energy of those men! Then after they got in and had all this land, and all this money that came to them as the thing matured--they abused power.

But if you stop to analyze what the Stanfords did for California--there was never anything better for the state than having another college

McLaughlin: come in and be so well established. Of course, the Crocker family, what they've done for San Francisco and for California is amazing--really an amazing contribution. Then if you add the Huntingtons with their cultural contribution in Southern California, we can say that in the end these were powerful men and that politically the Southern Pacific as a whole controlled the state in a way that was very difficult for the average person, but the contribution of those four men was a great contribution to the state.

In regard to Johnson's attack on the Southern Pacific, it disturbed the average person greatly because he in the process attacked his father so. This was something that shocked the average person.

Baum: Was that a matter of concern? Did a lot of people discuss that?

McLaughlin: Yes, they wondered whether he was sincere. They wondered whether the two of them made it up together. If they didn't, they thought that he should have handled it in a way that would not have put his father in the position that he was put in.

Brewer: He would have to attack his father, wouldn't he, under the circumstances that he was attacking the Southern Pacific?

McLaughlin: I presume so. This kept it from being just as clear as it might have been.

I wish I could think of some more of the women that he appointed because the Southern California women were a very fine group.

Baum: One of the women was Mrs. Eshleman, I think, or was that later?

McLaughlin: After her husband died, they did something so that she'd have a job to be able to educate her children.

Brewer: They did that when she was a widow, yes.

Do You remember, as you look back on it, Johnson's major accomplishments when he came in as Governor?

McLaughlin: I don't think I could sum them up. But Governor Johnson's administration was a very stimulating and exciting time. The power of the bosses of the earlier time was broken. I can remember Boss Buckley quite well. I was going along Geary Street once with my father and my father introduced me to him. We've seen men like Boss Buckley since. At the time I saw him he was a very successful person and appeared an interesting person, rather superior. This was late in life. He was a boss.

The Social Welfare board that Johnson appointed was wonderful: Jessica Peixotto, Father Ramm, Mrs. M.C. Sloss, people of that type. It was a remarkable board.

Baum: I think it was under the Board of Control then.

McLaughlin: Those were two different things. There were the babies under the Board of Control and this was dispensing money. Just which babies they were, I don't know. But the State Department of Social Welfare were the people I have mentioned.

Baum: It was called the Board of Charities and Corrections.

Governors William Stephens and Friend Richardson

Brewer: How about Stephens as governor? Did you know him?

McLaughlin: Old man Stephens? (Laughter)

Brewer: Yes.

Baum: Is that what they called him? (Laughter)

McLaughlin: I don't know. I shouldn't say it that way. I had enough associations with him to have very definite ideas that here was a man who wasn't brilliant, but would endeavor to do what was right. It may have been that a group of the people that followed and supported Johnson had

McLaughlin: sort of thinned itself out, I don't know. Stephens was not a bad governor, but he just was rather simple. He was succeeded by an awful person, Richardson. Oh, he was dreadful! Simply dreadful!

For instance, I think I can illustrate it by his attitude toward education. There's very little in the educational system that we could control. They passed a law in regard to so much per pupil. The budget for the University was a different matter, and I don't know how he reacted on that. I think they got along all right. In the general educational system, the only place he could see to save any more was in the teaching colleges. So, he tried to cut that situation, which, of course, meant they cut the allowances of the teachers' colleges, which was an invitation for teachers to come in from states that didn't train them as well as they were trained in California. This, in itself, was a very poor idea. This was fought. Mrs. Jesse Steinhart had a group in San Francisco working on this. What we were up against was the woman who was the representative of the Board of Control, Nellie Pierce, with Richardson...

Nellie Pierce and the Board of Control

Baum: That was the lady on the Board of Control, that's right. Nellie Pierce of Los Angeles, from the Taxpayer's Association.

McLaughlin: Richardson had just the person he wanted in Nellie Pierce. (Laughter)

Amy Steinhart got a group of us together that represented practically every county in the state, including San Diego and Del Norte. I mean, this was the span. We converged on Sacramento. On the way up Amy told me that I was to carry the presentation to Nellie Pierce, or before Nellie Pierce. If she had told me this the day before, I just couldn't have gone. By

McLaughlin: that time the accumulation of stories was such that you were just not going to get in the lion's den. We went up there and we had our hearing. The thing that was difficult as you presented the case, and I think it was a deliberate technique, as you spoke she would interrupt, often enough so that unless you kept saying to yourself I've got to do this, you know, not get rattled. This was very difficult.

Then it had been arranged that we all go in and meet the Governor. We went in and he was "so glad you folks had come." Then he put his feet up on the desk. This doesn't sound as though it could happen, but he did put his feet on the desk with all these women. Here was this lovely little lady from San Diego--the appearance of her face. So then he discussed money wasted on education. See where he was and he didn't need all that; what a struggle--he was given 10¢ each day for his lunch. I don't know how many miles he walked to school. As far as clothes were concerned, his mother always made his underclothes from flour sacks. This was the conversation and the way it went on. This is the type of person he was.

Baum: What kind of a woman was Nellie Pierce? Was she as fierce as you had anticipated?

McLaughlin: She was a quick, bright person that was a bookkeeper. She had a job to do. I don't think being unpleasant disturbed her. I think she rather enjoyed it.

I have to finish this story about the Governor. We were walking around the Capitol. There was a delightful newspaperman, Max Stern of the Daily News, dashing up one of the stairs, "Girls, did the old boy talk about his B.V.D's? Did he really do it?" So that was in the Daily News. (Laughter) Richardson was just terrible, simply awful. I think he didn't get that bill through. I think it was killed in committee.

Brewer: He made a great point about the virtues of the little red schoolhouse, didn't he?

McLaughlin: I've given you what I think is a typical story. How stupid he was! Really, to not realize that he had a big group of representative women.

Brewer: He'd been state printer, hadn't he?

McLaughlin: Yes.

Brewer: Now, how did he ever get into the Republican organization?

Baum: He was head of the rural newspaper editors and that's how he got himself elected. He had so many friends on all these little newspapers.

McLaughlin: Stephens was a gentleman, but rather simple. He landed in El Toro when he was running the second time and there was nobody there to greet him. He said, "I'm the Governor of this state and I've come to make a speech, who's going to listen to me?" (Laughter) I think this shows that he was kind of simple, but sweet about it. He was never arrogant. He was just a nice, decent, natural person. But Richardson was really terrifically limited, a very limited person.

Brewer: Did you have any dealings with Edward A. Dickson, Stephens' advisor?

McLaughlin: No, I didn't. You always heard of Eddie Dickson as being a sinister man.

In your book the picture they give of Meyer Lissner is not the picture of the average person. Lissner was a man that was, I think, very much respected. He and his wife were a couple that were most acceptable as intelligent delightful people.

Governors C.C. Young and James Rolph

Brewer: How about C.C. Young, did you have any dealings with him?

McLaughlin: Mr. Young had been a principal in Boy's High School in San Francisco. He is the man that put Bob Sproul into the University, put Monroe Deutsch

McLaughlin: into the University. He was a very much beloved teacher. Then he came over here [Berkeley] and he was in Duncan McDuffie's [real estate] office. As governor he was a most conscientious, careful governor and worked awfully hard and sincerely. For instance, I had friends that were there the night that he had to decide what he was going to do with Anita Whitney.

You know she had been sentenced under the Criminal Syndicalism Law. She was going to be put in prison unless he pardoned her. This night he had to decide what he was going to do. They said he just tore his soul trying to decide what was the right thing to do. Governor Young was a man who really struggled to keep good people working for him. I presume he made mistakes but he was a sincere, hard-working man.

Brewer: Did he manage to counteract the disasters of Richardson's administration?

McLaughlin: I don't know how far Richardson got. He was so bad that he even shocked the legislature. (Laughter) How much did Richardson really accomplish?

Brewer: He cut down the appropriations, as you pointed out, in education very considerably.

McLaughlin: Of course, Young was a dedicated believer in good education. Will Wood was superintendent of schools and he was a remarkable man. He was the best superintendent of schools I think. He was a very fine person. Young did a great deal for the state.

Appointment of Mrs. McLaughlin to the State Board of Social Welfare

Baum: How did you come to be appointed to the State Board of Social Welfare?

McLaughlin: One day I got a message from a cousin of mine who lived in Sacramento and was close to the Youngs, saying that he wanted me to accept an appointment on the State Board of Social Welfare. I had already told him that "At the present time I'm having a good deal of trouble with my heart and I don't dare do this. I'd love to do it only I don't want to worry my sister, with whom I live." Ethel said to me, "Emma, he's gotten a hold of me to tell you that you will save him from an appointment he does not want to make and they will not object to you. Will you please do him the favor of taking it." This is how I was on it. There were some very interesting people on it.

By the time I was really working on the board, it was perfectly all right and I enjoyed it. Ethel Richardson (Allen) this remarkable woman who had been brought out here from the east, originally for Americanization, was on it.

Then, when James Rolph became governor, he appointed Rheba Crawford Spivalo as Director of the Department of Social Welfare and that was a very bad appointment.

Baum: I hope we can discuss the State Board of Social Welfare in greater detail at a later interview. Professor James Leiby of our Department of Social Welfare would like to ask you some questions about your years on the Board.

McLaughlin: All right. The first thing, Mrs. Crawford wanted Mabel Weed to resign. Miss Weed was the finest, most thoughtful, original social worker I have known. Miss Weed said that she was prepared to work for Mrs. Crawford. "Well, I want your resignation." "But I was appointed by the Board." "That makes no difference to me. I am going to get rid of you."

McLaughlin: So Mrs. Crawford sent for two of the best social workers. Did you ever know Valeska Bary? She was a fine social worker and also a writer. There is a woman judge over in Alameda County who was also on the staff. She said to these outstanding people, "We want you to get Miss Weed to resign and I want your resignations." They said, "Well, we belong to the civil service." "That means nothing. I'll get something on you."

They stuck it out and they found that they were being by-passed. They were not allowed to do anything and so forth. It just became incredible.

I had not been reappointed by Mr. Rolph when it became time to be reappointed. Harriet Eliel was state President of the League of Women Voters and wanted me, begged me to stay on. I talked this over with Ethel Richardson Allen who said, "Well, it is the stupid, bad people who betray themselves but the smart, bad people don't." I thought that was a wise remark, but Harriet really brought pressure on me. She felt it was my duty to stay and fight her.

It was a little hard on Rolph because Rheba didn't want me. In fact, I asked her some questions about a situation where she had some new appointments in regard to people doing work down in San Joaquin. It shouldn't have happened. When I protested she said, "This won't come up through this board as long as you're on it."

None of us had the slightest chance with her because so much was done behind our backs. I will say this, that the women who were on the staff when she was put on, bent to the wind. They felt that they were there as staff and she was officially there. When they found that she was prepared to harm the social work in the state, those women just woke up and were fine people. There were two women on there that were just wonderful under the circumstances.

My brother had been very, very ill. He was in and out of a coma. Just as he was really getting stronger he looked up at me and he said, "Have you resigned from that Board?" And I said, "No, but I'm going to." He said, "I want

McLaughlin: you to go right down there and do it right away. That woman will get something on you." I said, "What can she get on me?" But, what can a board member do when the director turns to you and says, "The final decision will come when you're gone." Don't you think that by that time I'd taken enough? (Laughter)

I knew that I would not be reappointed because of her attitude but I also knew that Rolph would not ask me to resign because my brother worked for him at different elections and so forth. I stayed on the Board for awhile. Al Rosenshein had a marvelous story about how sorry he felt for Rheba Crawford the poor, shy little thing with Emma McLaughlin looking at her with those steel blue eyes. (Laughter)

The rest of the people that Miss Weed had chosen, really had recommended to work with her, I saw at a meeting in Los Angeles before the Board meeting. One of these women had a husband and a child. She was going to resign. I said to her, "Wait a second, my dear. Be sure what you do on this for the present. You have obligations." She said, "Don't you think my best obligation is to integrity? I cannot stay under these circumstances."

CHAPTER XI

STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WELFARE - 1930-1932
(December 20, 1965 interview--a room in Bancroft Library*)

Composition of the Board of Social Welfare, 1930-32

McLaughlin: Mrs. Baum said that you were interested in how some of the laws of social welfare were passed.

Leiby: Yes, I was particularly interested in your work on the Board of Social Welfare?

McLaughlin: Well, that was a curious thing. Governor Young was a very fine governor, exceedingly fine. He was very conscientious. He was quite close to a cousin of mine who was living in Sacramento. She telephoned me and said, "The Governor wants to put you on the Board of Social Welfare." I said, "Well, you tell him that is very nice, but..." She said, "But he asked you to please take it; that there is some direct pressure being brought to bear on him to appoint someone who he thinks is not worthy. It would simplify things very much for him and it is very appropriate for you to go on the Board."

Baum: This was in part because your brother had supported him?

McLaughlin: No, my brother had nothing to do with Young. That story was when I left the Board and that was under Rolph.

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*Mrs. McLaughlin went over this chapter and made minor corrections. W.B.

McLaughlin: So I went on the Board. Now you know the set up of that Board. There was a director appointed by the governor and also a member of the Board. Now I think the director was a woman who had been in the legislature from Alameda County.

Leiby: Anna Saylor.

McLaughlin: Yes, she was a good person but not anything in social welfare. However, she had an open mind and was honest and a person with ethics. The secretary of the Board was Mabel Weed whom I still consider had the most interesting approach to social welfare of any of the people that I have ever had contact with. She was more creative minded. She was less inclined to be for or against a thing emotionally because of a leftist or a rightist. She really approached social welfare from, to my way of thinking, a very interesting standpoint. She had the quality of gathering around her a very fine staff and she had a good staff, that is, the Board did.

Leiby: Was this separate from the Department?

McLaughlin: No, it was a part of it. She was the secretary of the Board appointed by the Board; she was a member of the Board. The director was appointed by the governor. Now it all depended on how well all of these forces worked together. When I first went on that Board, they worked together very well.

Baum: Before that Amy Steinhart Braden was...

McLaughlin: Amy Steinhart Braden worked with finance, whatever the finance group was called. She had charge of one group of the state's responsibilities with regard to children. I think they were the ones with mothers, and she had charge of that group. There was some name for that group.

Baum: I think before she left though that the Department of Social Welfare had been united with...

McLaughlin: That must have been after my time.

Leiby: It was in 1924 that it was brought over into the Department of Social Welfare.

McLaughlin: Amy Braden did not work on the Department of Social Welfare when I was on it.

Baum: No, she was before and I wondered if there had been any change; I think that she left when Mrs. Saylor came in.

Leiby: Yes, Mrs. Saylor replaced her.

McLaughlin: Then it was a different set up because Mrs. Saylor was the director of the Department of Social Welfare.

Leiby: It was organized in 1927; the Department under that form was organized.

McLaughlin: Now what were my years on the Board? This is something I have forgotten.

Baum: I think you came on in 1930; December, 1930, to February, 1932.

McLaughlin: Amy Braden was still in charge of those babies when I was on the Board. I think she was. There was quite a bit of antagonism between some of them. I assume there were seven members of the Board. There were two extremely fine people. One was Ethel Richardson Allen who was a graduate of Bryn Mawr. She was brought out here by the group who was working on Americanization.

Mrs. Gibson from Los Angeles was chairman of this Board. I think that they called it Americanization. She brought Ethel out to work under them. Soon they changed that to the Department of Adult Education, I think. They wanted to get away from this nomenclature of Americanization. She had done some of the most creative work in the United States. In fact, sometime during her administration she had been cited as the woman who had done the most original piece of educational work in the United States that year.

She was a Quaker with a very fine intellect, but all of it under the very fine calm exterior of a Quaker. I don't know that she was an active Quaker but she came from that background.

Leiby: Philadelphia and Bryn Mawr.

McLaughlin: Yes, her mother was a Quaker too. Her mother still spoke with the "thee" and the "thou" when I was there. She was the first one who brought in the project of working with study groups, or participation in the groups. I think she was retired by this time.

Leiby: Do you remember who appointed her to the Board?

McLaughlin: I know Mrs. Gibson was the one who brought her out here. There were some very fine women in Los Angeles that Hiram Johnson put on the Commission. Whether Mrs. Gibson was chairman of this Board that was handling Americanization, or whether she was just a very powerful member of it, I can't tell you.

Leiby: I mean on the Board of Social Welfare.

McLaughlin: Ethel Richardson, Governor Young put her on.

Leiby: Yes, I think so.

McLaughlin: Then another very fine person was Albert Rosenshein. He made a great contribution. There was a shadow over his name when he died. I presume the charges made against him probably were true but I refuse to think about it. He had an extremely fine mind. He had all of the Jewish interest in any discrimination. He was a very finely trained lawyer and he went over the legal obligations of the Board of Social Welfare with a fine tooth comb. He came up with a lot of things that unless you are a lawyer, you would not think of.

Now I will illustrate what I mean by the jails. The county jails were part of the obligation of that State Board. Yet, they had really no practical power on them. He said, "I practically cannot sleep at night when I think of the state of most of those county jails and the law says that this Board is responsible." There was no one set up on the Board. There never had been any power for taking care of those county jails adequately. The housing, the conduct toward the prisoners, all of that, he considered outrageous and I have no doubt but that it was.

McLaughlin: Now Mrs. Saylor would be a third member. Then Father Lucey who was from Long Beach was one of the finest individuals that I have ever known.

Leiby: You knew Father Ramm too.

McLaughlin: Yes, but Father Ramm was not on this Board. He was on the original Board that Johnson created. Of course, Father Ramm was one of the rare human beings in anybody's life. He was really a very unusual person. He was a convert, and he had charge of managing the cathedral.

During the height of one of our worst fights with regard to education in San Francisco, I just went and sat down and talked to him one afternoon. I had just served on a committee of the Chest with him. We met every Monday for years; I was chairman. When you do work that way, you know people very well. Besides he had known my mother and so forth. He discussed the question of the parochial schools: Why they were in this fight for education because the expense was so great. They must have their children trained when they were young enough to have the Church hold them. Of course, when he was saying a thing like that, he was telling you that he wanted to get the children started with a spiritual adjustment that would be with them always. But he was not on this Board.

Now, how many does that make with Father Lucey?

Baum: You have said Ethel Richardson Allen, Albert Rosenshein, Mrs. Saylor and Father Lucey. You did not say much about Father Lucey yet.

McLaughlin: Father Lucey was one of the real liberals in this state. He was in Long Beach. He was quite young at that time. Any case presented to him, he would just analyze the situation; it was never just his point of view which simply explained the Catholic point of view. He's one of the outstanding archbishops in the United States at the present time either in Arizona or New Mexico.

Leiby: I believe it is Arizona.

McLaughlin: Later when we were trying to prevent a very poor person from being the director, he came in one afternoon and said, "I am exceedingly sorry to leave this group and go home. I am a soldier in the ranks. I have been ordered home." This he accepted. He was a soldier in the ranks. The way he did it with great cheerfulness and the rest of it.

He was a great liberal and the ill-liberals at 1100 Franklin Street were not going to have him doing what he was doing so he was ordered to go home. They found this one way to get rid of him.

Leiby: Do you remember whom you replaced on the Board?

McLaughlin: There was a vacancy; that is all I remember.

Leiby: Do you remember whom the Governor was under pressure to appoint? Did anyone ever tell you? He appointed you.

McLaughlin: I have a vague idea who it was, but not the name. I have an outline of a person. Did you ever have a mental picture of a person? She was somebody very objectional but with a lot of political pull.

Leiby: Do you remember who wanted her on the Board?

McLaughlin: No.

Comments on Governor Young

Leiby: I am very interested as to how governors made appointments.

McLaughlin: Well, you had a rare governor in Young. You see, Young was an educator. He had been principal of a boy's high school in San Francisco. He had been a very fine teacher and he was a very fine person.

Leiby: Yes, very meticulous about making appointments.

McLaughlin: He was most conscientious. I can't tell you who the others were. Maybe you have looked the Board up and know more than I do.

Leiby: It's funny, I know up to 1927.

McLaughlin: Did you ever read the encyclopedia, that story of Frank Norris's? He went out on one of the tours taking people around to the Light House and this woman was so learned in a certain area. He finally found out that she had memorized everything up to "D" in the encyclopedia, but after that... (Laughter)

Actual Operation of the Board

Leiby: Do you remember what you did after you were appointed? I am interested in how the Board members got oriented.

McLaughlin: Well, this would be fairly simple because I had worked with Miss Weed in organizing the Chest. Miss Weed was the secretary of the committee that went on record for the Chest. Then we helped to work out the by-rules of the Chest and the rest of it. So working on that board with her in this other preparation was fairly simple.

Leiby: Did she suggest any problems that the Board was up against at that time?

McLaughlin: Oh, there were a lot of problems.

Leiby: Did she mention any that seemed important to her?

McLaughlin: The thing that I remember most acutely was when we left when we were no longer with Governor Young. The children's work I remember particularly. I mentioned to you that we had the job of the jails. I don't think that even Al Rosenshein set

McLaughlin: up any new measures for it. As I say, the children were still with their mothers. The children were then boarded out or put in an orphan's home.

Leiby: Did Mrs. Saylor talk to you about the work of the Board or the Department? I mean when you first got on the Board.

McLaughlin: You know, I would listen to Miss Weed and not Mrs. Saylor. Mrs. Saylor would be handy to have around because she knew all about the legislature which we had to work with. She was certainly more than a politician. She was a fine person, but she did not have the background that Mabel Weed had.

Leiby: Was it your impression that Mabel Weed sort of ran the Department as a deputy?

McLaughlin: Mabel Weed had sense enough to accept the set-up and work out a way how you could get things done, and she worked with Mrs. Saylor. When you actually are a trained social worker, you have to realize that part of your job is to educate them in a way that will be acceptable and pleasant. Mrs. Saylor was always treated by all of us with greatest respect.

Leiby: Can you tell me what Board meetings were like? Do you have any vivid recollections? Did you have, for example, a get-together before the official meeting?

McLaughlin: No, the Board met and the Board was friendly enough the first 18 months that I was there to have presented the problems that came from the secretary to the director and then present it to the Board. There was never any question of having executive meetings. The only reason for having meetings ahead of time would be where you had problems where you did not get along. We did not do that in the beginning at all.

Leiby: Were the meetings public?

McLaughlin: The question of public meetings never came up that I remember.

Leiby: Was there ever anyone in the audience, as it were?

McLaughlin: No, not in those days. The meetings were taken very seriously and the problems that were presented about social work in those days.

Leiby: Miss Weed would present you with an agenda?

McLaughlin: I rather imagine the way they worked things so that they would work properly was that Miss Weed would have an agenda and she and Mrs. Saylor would come to an agreement ahead of time. I should think that it would be presented by Mrs. Saylor unless she would ask Miss Weed to do it. You see, you are only formal when you don't trust the other fellow. They trusted one another.

Leiby: Do you remember what ideas Anna Saylor had about the Department in general? Do you remember if she had any strong things that she wanted to do with the Department in general?

McLaughlin: She may have, but I don't remember any that she had.

Leiby: Were there any problems of administering the Department that come to your mind as distinct from the program?

McLaughlin: No, I told Mrs. Baum the other day that it was very interesting to me to get a real lesson about civil service. You see, the staff was really civil service. I think Miss Weed was not. She was chosen by the Board and kept at the will of the Board.

Valeska Bary was a very fine social worker who was put on by Miss Weed, I think. She was an intellectual in every way. She was a woman who had been interested in things that people would term leftist. She was interested in more progressive thoughts than a lot of people.

Now the one woman whose name I cannot remember is now a judge in this county. [Cecil Mosbacher] She was an exceedingly fine person. They had also Mrs. Gates. She was a creative minded person. Not as fine as Valeska Bary and the young lawyer that I mentioned, but fine. The two girls in charge of children whose names I don't remember were more or less routine minded.

McLaughlin: The reason I got a lesson from them was when a new Governor was put in and a new director was put in. When they found out what her attitude to the children was, they sat there as though they were protecting the children to the best of their ability.

Appointment of Mrs. Spivalo as Director by Governor Rolph

Leiby: Did you know anything about Mrs. [Rheba Crawford] Spivalo before she became the director?

McLaughlin: She was, I should say, notorious.

Leiby: Did you have any idea that she was being considered?

McLaughlin: Definitely. We put up a terrific fight to prevent her being put on.

Leiby: With Governor Rolph? What were Governor Rolph's purposes?

McLaughlin: I had known the Governor well as the mayor of San Francisco. The Governor by that time had gone to pieces terribly. His answer to us was that she was a woman under attack and he was going to defend her to the end. If he said that to me once, he said that to me ten times. His best friends did their best to stop him.

Leiby: Her husband Crawford was a San Francisco man.

McLaughlin: You know she was from the Salvation Army. Her people were from the Salvation Army. She really did not do her parents justice. Her reputation is just a matter of the newspapers of that time.

Rolph all the time that he was the mayor, there was a group of friends who always gathered around him. There was Theodore Roach. I think we nearly killed one of them. All his brothers

October 31, 1965 ☆ Section II Page 15
S. F. Sunday Examiner & Chronicle

RHEBA CRAWFORD
As she looked in 1941

'Angel' of Broadway Is Critically Ill

Rheba Crawford Sommers Splivalo Lambertz, once famed as "The Angel of Broadway" and the former wife of a San Francisco stockbroker, was reported in critical condition today at the San Diego County Hospital.

The onetime Salvation Army lassie, attendants said, is suffering from possible meningitis. She was admitted to the hospital last Wednesday after being stricken at the Ensenada, Mexico, ranch of her husband, Lawrence.

Mrs. Lambertz, now 67, was a Salvation Army captain in the 1920s when she attracted 5,000 listeners nightly in New York's Times Square and earned the "Angel of Broadway" title.

She resigned from the Salvation Army in 1929 and moved to California to become an evangelist. A year later she married stockbroker-sportsman Raymond B. Splivalo, of San Francisco, her second husband. Her first husband was J. Harold Sommers of St. Petersburg, Fla.

In 1931 Governor James Rolph Jr. appointed her director of the California State Department of Social Welfare, a post she held until 1934.

She resigned at that time to become associate pastor of Evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson at the Angelus Temple in Los Angeles.

Mrs. Lambertz left the temple in 1937 to open her own church of radio evangelism after a series of court battles with Mrs. McPherson.

McLaughlin: came from Mendocino County, McNab. I don't remember which McNab. There were a group of these men who were utterly devoted to him. They did jobs for him but also would try to keep him on the good path. It was one of the McNab's that we went to see to get him to persuade the mayor about Rheba Crawford. We heard him telephone the mayor trying to persuade him. He just could not afford to keep this woman there. McNab died the next day.

Father Lucey was just broken hearted to think that a woman with her scandalous reputation would have charge of his nice sisters.

Leiby: How did Governor Rolph get her name?

McLaughlin: I haven't the slightest idea.

Leiby: What qualifications did he suppose that she had?

McLaughlin: Well, she was in the Salvation Army. He did not know that the Salvation Army was no place to be used as a criterion of social work. You could not tell him that. He was curious this way. I don't think there is anything scandalous between him and Rheba.

Leiby: No, I was not suggesting that.

McLaughlin: I had this talk once another time when he was the mayor and he was appointing someone on the recreational commission who was utterly undesireable. From the League we always sent two people and this woman did not come that day, the extra League person. We had to go ahead so finally he said, "I would like to know some of the things that are back of this that are making you make these remarks, Mrs. McLaughlin?"

I said, "Well, if you really want to know, this woman has told Joe O'Day her relations with you." He said, "By God, you don't believe it, do you?" I said, "No, she is not good-looking enough!" (Laughter)

Joe O'Day was one of the people who worked for my family. You would have to know San Francisco and politics to know what I am talking about. He was our head vaquero. We were in the

McLaughlin: livestock business; we were meat packers. Joe, all the O'Day's, had voted from the Irish Catholics. This was true; she had said this to Joe. Again she was a woman under attack. I don't know if this was a front or if it was votes or what it was. I am sure in both cases, his best friends tried to prevent it but he just went ahead.

Leiby: It was a most curious and inappropriate appointment and we cannot tell from this point how he made it.

McLaughlin: I cannot tell you either. I stayed on the Board after she was made director because the then chairman of the League of Women Voters thought I should stay on and do some good.

Leiby: Did Governor Rolph reappoint you?

McLaughlin: My appointment had run out, but there was no possibility at that time that he would appoint anyone in my place. He would not give me a reappointment though. My brother had always helped him in every one of his campaigns. I was in the position that he could not bear my being there, but he did not dare put me off. He and I understood the situation perfectly.

Leiby: So you continued on?

McLaughlin: For a short time. After I asked some questions, she said, "This whole matter will be ended by the time you are off here, Mrs. McLaughlin." When you have a few hints like that, I just went to Mrs. Eliel, League president, and said, "All I am doing is just filling in time." Mrs. Eliel said to me, "It is only stupid people who give the chance to get something on them. She is much more likely to get something on us."

This was her technique. She went to Miss Weed and said, "I want your resignation." Miss Weed said, "I worked against you which technically is a very bad idea. Theoretically I should not have done it, but you have been appointed and now I am ready to work for you." She said, "I don't want you." Miss Weed said, "Well, I only resign to the Board and they have not asked me for my resignation."

McLaughlin: Then she went to Valeska Bary and the lawyer and said, "I want your resignations." They said, "We are civil service." "Well," she said, "What does that mean? I can get something on you. I want you to go and Miss Weed to go. I don't intend to have you here."

The next meeting was in Los Angeles. Mrs. Gates telegraphed and asked if she could see me ahead of it. She told me that she was going to leave the Board; that she was going to resign. I said, "Now, Mrs. Gates, you are putting your husband through college. Can you afford to do this?"

She said, "Can I afford to stay? No matter what happens in our family, I have to do the thing that is honest. I cannot work with this woman and you know it."

Now the other two girls who were civil service stayed and worked very hard to save the care of the orphans, the mothers and orphans.

Leiby: What was in Mrs. Spivalo's mind? What did she want to do with the Department? Was this simply to smirch these people who opposed her to get vengeance? Did she have any constructive ideas?

McLaughlin: You only can judge that by the people whom she appointed because this was brought up. A remark was made that she had appointed people in the San Joaquin Valley on some of the work down in the San Joaquin Valley who were not prepared in any way. They had not had any experience and were not doing a good piece of work. I think very likely the remark I made was, "Well, have those appointments come up to the Board?"

She said, "They will come up when you are not here," or something like that.

Leiby: Were these acquaintances of hers? Do you know anything about the appointments that she made? Had they been suggested to her by someone else, do you suppose?

McLaughlin: They were very poor. Eventually, Miss Weed and the other fine ones resigned with the exception of these women which now makes me wonder whether I have my chronology wrong because I think those

McLaughlin: two women with regard to those children were really those two who had been trained by Mrs. Braden so it may have been in the amalgamation there. I think she trained those two women.

Leiby: I am trying to think of the names of those two women. One of them wrote an article called, "Thirty Years of California's Children" which was very famous. Her name just escapes me. [It was Miley Pope. J.L.]

McLaughlin: Amy Braden knows. This was a great lesson to me about civil service because they stayed there and suffered but they stayed there and did good work all the time she was there. They never worked against her. I think she accepted them.

Baum: You mentioned before that at first your Board did not meet in informal session before the session. Was it later that you did or did that ever happen?

McLaughlin: I never met anybody except when Mrs. Gates came to see me in the hotel that time. I knew the others very well; if there was anything that I wanted to say, I would telephone them or write them. There was never any; there was not a necessity for that.

Governor Young's Relationship to the Board

Leiby: Did Governor Young ever have much to do with the State Board of Welfare? Did he ever speak to you about its work?

McLaughlin: I can give you an idea of how interested he was; this was before my time. When Miss Weed was first appointed, through the same cousin, I had a message from the Governor: "Miss Weed is under attack. Will you see what Dr. Wilbur will do?"

Leiby: Wilbur?

McLaughlin: Yes, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur. He was then in the Cabinet, Hoover's Cabinet, but he came home

McLaughlin: for some college event. I was so mad; I was running a fever that day but I had a very carefully written letter that I had a friend take down for me. The way Governor Young did it, I did not dare handle it through the telephone or anything so this friend took the letter. As she went through the line, she gave it to Dr. Wilbur and said, "Mrs. McLaughlin asked you to read this tonight."

The next morning there was a telegram to Governor Young saying that Miss Weed had worked for him in the Council in San Francisco and in the council of several agencies and so forth. That there was no one whom he would consider finer for the job.

Leiby: Do you recall who was attacking Miss Weed?

McLaughlin: No, this was secret. My cousin did not know. The Governor knew but no names were carried at all.

Leiby: The Governor then never discussed what you might call policy with the Board. Did you have very much to do with members of the legislature?

McLaughlin: Not through the Board.

Leiby: Then you did not view yourselves as a body...

McLaughlin: A pressure group? I don't remember ever going to the legislature for the Board. There were people much better qualified to do that than I was. Al Rosenshein had been in the legislature. He was a person who was very wise politically.

Leiby: And, of course, Mrs. Saylor.

McLaughlin: We would not by-pass Mrs. Saylor.

Policy-making Role of the Board

Leiby: The role of the Board has changed across the years. I was wondering how you might have looked upon the role of the Board.

McLaughlin: I can only be very superficial. I may be inaccurate in what I say. Any board that I knew took itself and its work very seriously. It was given a job to do and individually or collectively it was done. It was worked on. When you take that first fine Board of Governor Johnson's that had Miss Peixotto, Mrs. Sloss, Father Ramm, and that kind of person, they took their job very seriously and worked at it. They did not do what the secretary or the director should do, but being absolutely closely in touch with them.

There was no one on our Board who had the power that those people did. The Board did take their jobs very seriously though. Now my understanding has been, the last person that I knew well that was on the Board of Social Welfare resigned. She said that she believed that the Board should know what was going on, work very hard, and take their jobs and do whatever was necessary for them to do. The rest of the Board had gotten into the habit of leaving everything to the staff and she did not care to continue working that way. That may be right or wrong. I think it is true.

Leiby: This is the sort of sentiment that I want to get at. It was thought that the Board should be a policy-making board.

McLaughlin: You can bet your boots that we made policy.

Leiby: What were some of the policy questions?

McLaughlin: We discussed that question about policies about the jail for a long time. Where are you going to fix the responsibility? How should the law be drawn up so that the county jails of California would not be a disgrace? This is one that I remember very distinctly.

Leiby: This was a policy question?

McLaughlin: Yes.

Leiby: Who was responsible for doing something? In the main the Board was responsible, but in fact they did not have the power.

McLaughlin: Another thing occurred to me that was entirely different. Somewhere up in Modoc County, there was a group of people on welfare. They seemed, a good many of them, apparently, were really feeble-minded. Miss Weed wanted a policy made in regard to women without husbands being pregnant and producing other children. Should the state continue to take care of them? Then Al Rosenshein quoted the way the law read on the subject of the care of children. I mean, this was one of the things that is discussed recently. It is not a new situation. There happened to be, reputedly, a little circle of people living up somehwere in Modoc County that were most of them feeble-minded. What are you going to do with people like that? They were morons and were reproducing their own kind.

Leiby: What policy did Miss Weed want?

McLaughlin: (Laughter) I wish that I could remember. I can see Al Rosenshein looking at her, but I forgot what he said to her. The fact remains that he strongly suggested that there were certain facts of life that we had to recognize. She was just simply outraged at this increasing group. Miss Weed had a very strict interpretation at that point. Al Rosenshein said that she could not get away with it.

Leiby: Did Miss Weed think that the state ought not to subsidize them?

McLaughlin: Yes, she was opposed to it. Mr. Rosenshein said simply that it would be grand if you could stop them, but how are you going to?

Leiby: Yes, without hurting the children which you don't want to do.

McLaughlin: So he quoted the law with regard to children which said that they ought to be cared for. Now these are two rather widely separated incidences.

Leiby: When Miss Peixotto and her associates were on the Board, they were very much interested in promoting an agency called the County Welfare Board which was supposed to do something like your planning council in San Francisco. It was to administratively bring together services for children, probation, family services, outdoor relief, indoor relief, and so on. Do you remember hearing anything about that? It is my impression that in the years after Miss Peixotto left that this idea was dropped.

McLaughlin: This does not stick in my memory. It would have stuck if I had had anything to do with it. I knew something of that other board just in its last years because a great friend of mine was suddenly made secretary of it, Mrs. Stanwood.

Leiby: Oh, Mrs. Cornelia Stanwood, yes. She was a school teacher once. You knew her from San Francisco?

McLaughlin: I have known her since we were in college at the same time. She was older than I was.

Leiby: Governor Johnson appointed her, I believe.

McLaughlin: No, that fine Board appointed her, but I don't believe that Johnson was the governor then.

Leiby: I think perhaps you are right. Maybe it was Stephens then?

McLaughlin: Yes, probably. It was a good Board.

Leiby: At any rate, it was the Board who appointed her.

McLaughlin: That was not one of Miss Felton's...

Leiby: (Laughter) I have read over your previous interviews and was very interested in your comments on Miss Felton.

McLaughlin: I want to tell you, Miss Felton did some of the finest things that were done in California. She was a trained lawyer. However, she had a tremendous will to power. She was one of these people who could only work with adorers. She had to be all or nothing.

Leiby: Have you read her biography?

McLaughlin: No, I would not do it. I tell you, I am one of these people to whom principle is more fundamental than anything else. I thought she was just high on the pedestal and when she fell off, it was hard on me. I found that she had sacrificed principle.

Leiby: There are many people who share this.

McLaughlin: She used people outrageously. Some of the consequences were hideous, simply hideous. She had two women in the Babies Aid. That is where the abandoned babies were taken. They never had a holiday; they never had anything. They were used. Any modern thought of human treatment. They were dedicated to Miss Felton. Now, they ended up perverts. Now that was the consequence of that treatment. While they were perverts, they had to be put out and the place cleaned up. Now this is what happens to people. Are you going to stand around and work for anybody like that!

Leiby: I had not heard that story before.

McLaughlin: They ended up and had to be put out and the whole thing had to be changed. This was a consequence of what had happened. You cannot treat people that way. She used people; she used humans. She was a wonderful person though.

You know, she had a certain amount of sex appeal but if you had seen her it sounds awfully funny. Her sex appeal was simply that she was a marvelous brain and a terribly dedicated woman. She took in lots of men where women would see through it. Not sex appeal in the usual sort; she had feminine appeal, let me put it that way. She used it too. She was a little tiny bit of a thing; sometimes she would have two hats on and forget that she had them on. She used feminine appeal.

Old Age Pensions

Leiby: Do you remember any discussions about pensions for the aged when you were on the Board.

McLaughlin: It may have been on that Board. These things can gather from various fields. I was asked to take the final chairmanship of that board that got the pension passed, that did the investigation and got the pension passed. That was in the Chest. I was asked to take the final chairmanship because, I think, whoever had been the chairman could not finish it up.

Leiby: That is in the San Francisco Chest?

McLaughlin: Yes, and they did the investigations on old age pensions. They had some very good people on that. It was a very interesting thing, their investigations. I can't tell you the names but they had one person do the investigation, one man who really was one of the most interesting people I have ever known. He had been once a hobo, a "bindle-bum." Then he had come to college at 42! He had gone through college. I said, "Did you take work with Parker?"

He said, "Oh, sure, I went to Parker but I knew that Parker only was talking." There was something the investigator wanted me to do and after it was over I said, "I now know why you sent me." He said, "Yes, I wanted to educate you." He was a real person.

Leiby: When you were on the State Board of Social Welfare, did the questions of pension in that administration come up?

McLaughlin: I don't believe it did. I think it was handled in the Chest.

Unemployment Relief in San Francisco

Leiby: Did the question of unemployment relief come up very much in those days? It did not come up on the state board so there were two kinds of policies...

McLaughlin: You see, I had this in the Chest. Miss Weed had really done something in the Chest about that. The Chest was founded in about 1924. We had this big group of unemployed in San Francisco in the winter. There were not comfortable surroundings in most of the small towns of California so the casual laborers flooded into San Francisco in the winter and were a social problem. The men in San Francisco would not recognize that the metropolitan city had the obligation to take care of these men.

Leiby: There was no public outdoor relief as I remember.

McLaughlin: No, there was the Salvation Army who had a "flop-house." They had a woodyard and a "flop-house" and some sort of place where they fed people. Now there was something more than the Salvation Army; I have forgotten. Under the Chest, and I think this was under Miss Weed, this was done. We got some money to make an investigation of this. I think that was a special grant.

Leiby: From the Planning Council?

McLaughlin: There was no Planning Council then. I think that must have been a special grant. We had an exceedingly fine worker, Margaret Le Seur. She is dead. She was there to do this sort of thing. She did another very good thing too.

Leiby: What was that?

McLaughlin: Let me finish this. We ran these unemployeed through a clinic set up for these men. We found that half were sick and half of the half were mentally sick. This was done by an exceedingly interesting young doctor. It was carefully done and well done. The various problems of taking care of the unemployed were brought up at that

McLaughlin: time. Nothing modern in the way of subsidy or anything of that sort. That study was a very interesting study.

Leiby: Did the Community Chest of San Francisco ever advocate a public outdoor relief or were they adamantly opposed to it?

McLaughlin: I don't remember how heavily they were involved during the Depression.

Leiby: But when you were in the organization, you don't remember.

McLaughlin: They would not even look after these unemployed men that were in San Francisco.

Leiby: When you were active in the Community Chest in San Francisco, how did you look on your relations with the State Board of Social Welfare at that time?

McLaughlin: I was in the Community Chest in the early years and it was founded in 1923 or 1924. At that time the State Board was an exceedingly fine state board. You looked to them for a place where you could get understanding.

Child Welfare and the Community Chest

Leiby: Was the Community Chest much interested in the child welfare that the state conducted?

McLaughlin: I think you would have to make that a little more specific.

Leiby: Did they ever talk about the adequacy of grants under the Widow's Pension Act? Was there ever any discussion of this?

McLaughlin: The most careful study of children needing aid was done by the Children's Committee of the Associated Charities headed by Charles Elkus.

McLaughlin: That was the most constructive work they have done. If at the end of careful study the legislature deemed it best, then it would be taken out into the community and carried through. This was with the backing of Miss Felton and so forth.

Leiby: But you do not remember any big campaign to the effect that grants under this program were not adequate?

McLaughlin: That may have come out of the Children's Committee of the Associated Charities. The big study that was headed by Charley Elkus and done by a woman who was afterwards his daughter-in-law, Margery Elkus, may have done that.

Ray Lyman Wilbur

Leiby: Were you active in the big California Conference on Social Welfare?

McLaughlin: I don't remember that I was ever on it although I may have been on some committee, I don't know. I went for years. I always went because it seemed necessary if you were interested in welfare work.

Leiby: How would you characterize the type of people who attended, say three or four different types?

McLaughlin: The first meetings of the conference I have forgotten somewhat. At one time when Dr. Wilbur was chairman of the conference and Miss Weed was the secretary...I put on some of the programs. I have forgotten what the program was, but I was given a certain amount of time to put on a program. Then something went wrong with it. Then we got it all straightened out. I have forgotten what it was; the mechanics would not work, I think.

Well, at any rate, Dr. Wilbur was the chairman. Dr. Wilbur was one of the great people in

McLaughlin: social work. One of the best speeches I ever heard was by Dr. Wilbur. It was one of the best analyses of the necessity of social welfare in the urban areas. It was a speech for the Community Chest. He was chairman of the department of social work in the Chest. He said, "I got off the train and walked up Third Street..." Then he described what he passed on the street as he was coming to this meeting. There was absolutely nothing of concern to social welfare which he did not give a short, cryptic description of as he came up the street. His mind went way beyond what most people were doing at the time. He was the one who urged all those early surveys. We had a health survey. We had a recreational survey. We had an address on convalescence. He brought all of those in.

Changes in Volunteer Welfare Agencies

The legal set-up for the Chest or the by-laws for the Chest were changed. Then rather than having a department of social work and one for the collection of money, the whole thing was merged because Miss Felton saw in it a way that she would get more money. This was one of the chief things. Also the then-director Paul Davis saw about what he could get so he brought the amount down. I am making this cryptic now. This is the gist of it.

It changed the whole picture and what happened is what you see happening so often in America. That is, the power in social welfare that is in education won't stand up against the power of money because the power of money has a plan. Now I think we had wonderful businessmen in the Chest. All of the committees were either five or seven. The majority were social workers and the others were businessmen. This was deliberately done so that the businessman would get the education and they did. Then it was broken down when the set-up was entirely different. After that the social workers did not have the method of communication nor did they have the bravery.

McLaughlin: When you see it in academic fields...I spent years trying to get some explanation. You asked me about the Conference of Social Welfare. They had a national meeting here. I took this question to them: Why can't the welfare [people] find a bridge to the businessmen?

"Mrs. McLaughlin, that is a wonderful idea, but we will bring it up next Tuesday." I was a fool; I went back next Tuesday. I sat and listened to one man as long as I could a couple of years ago then I wrote to him and said, "You can tear this up and throw it in the waste basket but it is out of my mind anyway. You have been doing here something that I think only exaggerates the lack of communication between the academic group and the business group."

Leiby: In your judgment has the California Conference of Social Welfare changed very much over the years?

McLaughlin: Again I will tell you what everyone says. The staff people gradually took over. They did not want to be bothered with the volunteers. Now, I did not see that happen because gradually my efforts were in some other field. The impression was that they did not need volunteers.

Leiby: Why do you suppose that they moved in this way? Why do you suppose that they didn't realize that what they needed was a strong and informed public opinion? As a historian I would say that social welfare's rise and fall can be measured by the amount of public interest.

McLaughlin: I should say it was lack of patience on the part of the trained social worker. You see, in my day there were not a great many people who were trained social workers. Not that had graduated. What I say may not be true because it is not from my experience. The trained social worker from the background of experience and study gets to learn the situation much more quickly. But then there should be a willingness to educate the volunteer. I think that they did not want to spend the time.

Leiby: Has it ever seemed to you that the character of the volunteer is changing too?

McLaughlin: Well, the character of the volunteer is much more intelligent than they used to be. The average board of the average social welfare agency, you will find almost all those people college trained. In former days they were patronesses, lady patronesses.

Leiby: It is my impression that this kind of interest has diminished greatly. I was interested in an earlier interview where you said that you thought the women now are as active as they were in your youth.

McLaughlin: There are so many more people who are prepared.

Leiby: It is my feeling that when you got into the picture there were a whole group of people like yourself and Amy Braden and these people who were interested across the board in education and many kinds of welfare. It is my impression now that people are much more specialized and that they are interested much more in their own careers. I have a feeling that this leisure-class woman has somewhat disappeared, but this is not your feeling?

Board of Children's Hospital

McLaughlin: I'll tell you, for instance, I went in during a transitory period. I knew some women doctors very well from the work in the Baby Hygiene Committee. These were not pediatricians who came to me; they were the women doctors who were doing creative thinking on the board of the Children's Hospital. They came and said to me, "We want to know whether, if we can get somebody on the board to put up your name, you will go on the Children's Hospital board?"

I said, "Just exactly what do you think that I can do on the Children's Hospital board?" They said, and this is being put very crudely, "There is a group of women there who have been on that board their whole lives. They have represented

McLaughlin: privilege, socially and financially, all their lives. They really love the hospital, but they have no new or progressive ideas particularly. It would be well if they had some people on board. We have managed to get Alicia Mosgrove on. Now we want you to go on. Will you go?"

I said, "Well, you recognize that I am no good at getting money and those women can just walk out and get money." They said, "We just want you to go on the board."

Leiby: Who is it that approached you?

McLaughlin: The one person that I remember best was Dr. Willitts. These were all women physicians from the Children's Hospital.

Leiby: So this was the staff of the hospital; they were recruiting?

McLaughlin: Yes, I have been telling you secrets to this thing.

Leiby: This is how they recruited people?

McLaughlin: No, the hospital, you see Dr. Willitts was a surgeon so fine that she was recognized by everyone. There was never any man who would question her diagnosis or her ability. They just felt they wanted...now some of those women on the board were completely devoted to Dr. Willitts and would listen. But these women had been on there forever; they had been fine in raising money. However, they did not feel that they had the modern point of view.

Then they followed my appointment by Miss Pierce and one or two others. Finally, we had a survey made. No one remembers it now. This is the funniest thing. Any one at the Children's Hospital who does not know about the survey. Any one of us who served at that time knows that it really killed Miss Pierce in the end but she got this thing through.

Leiby: Just what survey is this?

McLaughlin: It was made about 25 years ago and the man was from Chicago.

Leiby: Around 1940 or during the 1930's?

McLaughlin: No, it was in the 1930's.

Leiby: What did it survey?

McLaughlin: It surveyed the whole running of the hospital.

Leiby: I see, it was an internal survey of the administration.

McLaughlin: Now, you realize that in those days, the superintendent was generally a doctor who did not have the brains enough to practice, probably from the army or something like that. They were really a group of fine women and finally there were enough of them to put that survey through.

This was a transitory period. Now, I think, that they have two training hospitals for people to train in hospital management. The University has one on their Public Health Department, don't they?

Leiby: Oh, yes!

McLaughlin: You have that sort of thing; you had a group of women on that board who would listen to modern ideas. It was a fine institution. I have forgotten what year I went on that board. It was probably in the early 1930's.

Comments on Olson and Warren Boards of Social Welfare

Olson Board

Leiby: Before we get too far from the State Department of Social Welfare, would you say something about Florence L. Turner, did you know her very well?

McLaughlin: Who was she?

Leiby: She was the executive of the State Department from 1934 to 1939. I just thought you might know her. You knew Charley Wollenberg; he was an old San Francisco man.

McLaughlin: He was put on there after Patti Chickering. Warren put him on very definitely. Patti was appointed by Governor Olson. The person who really did most of the work on that board during Miss Chickering's time whose mind seemed to be the dominant one was a man from Los Angeles.

Leiby: Archie Young.

McLaughlin: Miss Chickering thought that he was a perfectly fine person. Patti should never have taken that job. She had a good job here [at the University] in the Department of Social Welfare and she did very well here. She did very well there and, I think, she was terribly humiliated when she was put off that Board. She was an Olson appointment. Lots of people did not understand that point of view, but this is what you expect. Afterwards she became very deaf. I am devoted to Patti Chickering and felt very badly but I also understand what the situation was and Wollenberg told me why he was put on there.

Leiby: Why did he tell you he was put on there?

McLaughlin: Because they felt that Mr. Young was too dominant over Patti.

Leiby: And Governor Warren was not sympathetic to Colonel Young? What was the nature of the division?

McLaughlin: I don't know. See, I would generally hear it mostly from Patti's side because I had known her for years. She was always one of my best friends. But even her brother said that she should not expect Warren to keep her.

Leiby: Do you have any idea who Governor Olson consulted when he made that appointment?

McLaughlin: Well, we were all pleased to pieces when Patti had the chance. We thought it was wonderful. All the women in the state were awfully pleased.

McLaughlin: They felt that here was one of the best trained women for the job.

Leiby: You don't remember anything about Florence Turner then through these people?

McLaughlin: No.

Warren Board

Leiby: Were you surprised when Governor Warren appointed Wollenberg?

McLaughlin: A little bit.

Leiby: Why?

McLaughlin: Well, the Wollenberg family was an exceedingly brilliant family. The sisters were two of the best newspaper women who were ever in San Francisco. They were brilliant. They were Ernestine Wollenberg and Lucille Wollenberg. He had one brother who is a very brilliant scientist, a chemist. The brother has made a great success in some of his discoveries and I think of him in forestry, not in preservation, but he was with the Longview Lumber Company, I think. At any rate he is a scientist of great skill and great repute.

Leiby: What about Wollenberg himself?

McLaughlin: Wollenberg was the least brilliant in the family, in my opinion. There has been some criticism of his handling of the Laguna Honda Home. The technique: Would a cottage system be better? Or was it really an outstanding old people's home? I don't know if the criticism was really valid or not. I think he was just a little difficult at times.

Leiby: Wollenberg?

McLaughlin: Sensitive. Oh, we ended up fast friends but there were times when he wasn't.

Leiby: What considerations do you suppose led the Governor to appoint him? I did not know that he had two sisters who were journalists. That would be a great help.

McLaughlin: But this would not have any influence with Warren because I don't think either of them were writing at the time that he went on. I would gather that Governor Warren felt rightly or wrongly the necessity of tightening up that department.

Leiby: Yes, but Wollenberg is hardly the man for tightening up the department.

McLaughlin: Well, he thought himself that he had done a good job; he told me so.

Leiby: That is in the sense that he had never had any experience in the State Department.

McLaughlin: Yes, but to do that you have to handle a board of supervisors and he was pretty good at that.

Leiby: I see, and he was ace high with the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

McLaughlin: Yes, I mean he knew how to go to the legislature.

Leiby: That makes it much clearer.

McLaughlin: It just gives you a little shadow; I don't know why you find it...

Leiby: Do you remember Charlie Shottland at all? Charlie Shottland was in a Jewish agency in Los Angeles and he became sort of Miss Chickering's deputy. She gave him a free hand and he did many constructive things. If I had been making an appointment in Warren's place, I think I would have appointed Shottland, who indeed was appointed in 1950 by Warren.

McLaughlin: I wondered why he had done it. Not enough to be disagreeable about it. I was not going to go and find out why he picked that appointment.

Leiby: It would have made a nice quibble though.

McLaughlin: Yes, he had something to contribute.

Leiby: Do you remember anything about the Board members that Warren appointed?

McLaughlin: Well, there was one woman who served for awhile, Mrs. William Chipman, that I know very well. Anybody could say that was a political appointment, but they would not because they did not know Bernice Chipman. I don't know if her father was still alive or if she was running the Bakersfield Democrat. She had the best country paper in the state of California. She had one of the finest minds and one of the finest spirits of anyone that I know of. I am completely devoted to her. She is one of the most thoughtful, independent people I have ever known.

Leiby: Were there any other appointments that you can think of?

McLaughlin: I think Warren was also responsible for the appointment of Mrs. Tadini Bacigalupi.

Leiby: Yes, she was one of the Board.

McLaughlin: What men were on, I have forgotten.

Leiby: Well, there was a man named Cuneo. He was sort of the representative of the Townsend people.

McLaughlin: Mrs. Chipman resigned finally. There were some reasons why she had to resign and Mrs. Bacigalupi was the one who told me that she got out because no one was working but the staff and she did not approve of it. Now, Mrs. Bacigalupi did not have the breadth that Mrs. Chipman had, but if ever she was given a job, she would do it and she had had good training in the Chest. She was active in local civic affairs.

Anita Eldridge

Leiby: Did you know Anita Eldridge at all? She was no warm admirer of Miss Felton and she was a great admirer of yours.

McLaughlin: Anita had had a very hard time. She had this mysterious illness; she was ill for a long time. She tried to keep the Conference of Social Welfare from being staff run. She tried to keep in touch with volunteers. She tried to do a great many fine things. I think she did do fine things.

Leiby: The two women we were thinking about, one was Miley Pope in Child Welfare and the other was Geneva Orcutt, perhaps.

McLaughlin: You have it. Wait a second. You have to get the one who is now the judge over here. [Cecil Mosbacher] She was a wonderful person and Valeska Bary was. I think that Valeska Bary is still alive.

Leiby: Yes.

McLaughlin: Miss Orcutt and Miley Pope, those two women just stayed through every administration taking care of the children. They did a good job. I had a great lesson in the worth of people when they were fighting this awful person. They said, "We are civil servants; we are not supposed to do that sort of thing."

Women's Organizations

Leiby: You have said a great deal about women's organizations in San Francisco. I was wondering if you would say something about women's organizations in Los Angeles.

McLaughlin: You get hold of Ethel. The thing that took place in the League of Women Voters, the San Francisco Center which was later the League of Women Voters; the organization in Los Angeles was the Friday Morning Club. All of these women who had worked hard for Johnson had founded that.

Leiby: That is Hiram Johnson?

McLaughlin: Oh, yes! He was a great governor. This is hard for people to take in but it is true. There are people who can give you that but I can't. You have to get the history of the Friday Morning Club because the leaders in Los Angeles all were gathered there.

Leiby: How about out in the valley? Were there any places like Sacramento or Stockton that had strong, progressive civic women's organizations?

McLaughlin: You mean 30 or 40 years ago?

Leiby: Yes. I must say that when I think of the League of Women Voters in California, I think mostly of San Francisco women, San Francisco, Oakland, and Berkeley.

McLaughlin: Until we went into the national association, the California Civic League voted to become the California unit of the League of Women Voters. We had started a civic league group in Los Angeles but had not gotten very far. There was one in Oakland but San Francisco was the tail that wagged the dog. In the beginning they said, "We will have to have a California Civic League." The principal reason they did it was because Anita Whitney was so great a needle that no one could work with her so they made her president of the state league, to be relieved of her in San Francisco. That is the truth. She was difficult.

You see, San Francisco Civic League was founded in about 1912. We went into the National League of Women Voters in about ten years. We did do legislative work with two other organizations. One was called the Women's Legislative Council. The other was called Federated Clubs. We had through part of the time during those ten

McLaughlin: years a joint group of those three groups in regard to legislation affecting women. We were the only people who stuck by the idea of having no legislation except what we had worked on, or backed. The others would have some of their own pet legislation, but we always stuck to the agreed upon legislation. This all took place in the late "teens" and 1920's.

Leiby: It was a very effective idea.

(Mr. Leiby had to leave so Mrs. Baum took over the interview.)

McLaughlin: I would really love for you to interview Patti Chickering; she is such a fine person.

Baum: You call her Patti. Wasn't her name Martha?

McLaughlin: Well, she was called Patti.

Baum: Do you see her now?

McLaughlin: No, but I always hear from her. I don't have anything intimate from Patti. Our friendship comes partly through the fact of her sister-in-law and partly through other things, and, of course, partly through herself. She was happier here [at U.C.] I think and could contribute more. We rejoiced when the position was given to her.

Outstanding Persons in the Field of Community Service

Baum: I think I told you that we were trying to plan out a series of interviews with people who have been prominent in civic betterment and so on in the Bay Area. I wondered if you might suggest people as interviewees. We are particularly interested in those from earlier days.

McLaughlin: I would say in this matter of social work that Ruth Turner, who finally ended up in the Bureau of Social Work, would be a very good one.

Dr. Mary Layman seated to the left of Mrs. McLaughlin. United Nations Conference.

Foundation officials compare notes on community trusts at San Francisco Foundation luncheon, Palace Hotel, January 25, 1949. Left to right: Edwin R. Embree, long-time vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation and former president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund; Mrs. Alfred McLaughlin, Distribution Committee Member of the San Francisco Foundation; and Daniel E. Koshland, chairman of the San Francisco Foundation.

Luncheon for Queen Elizabeth of Belgium, tendered by the San Francisco League of Women Voters - 1949. Left to right: Brand Whitlock, American minister to Belgium (principal speaker), Mrs. Joseph L. Jayne or Mrs. Clarence Smith, Mrs. W.H. Crocker, Queen Elizabeth of Belgium, Mrs. Alfred McLaughlin, Warren Gregory, Mrs. Francis Drion, Mrs. James Rolph, Jr.

Mgs by all mail.

Baum: This would not have to be just women. It could be men too.

McLaughlin: Of course, Dan Koshland has a fine attitude toward his responsibility and an ability to maintain a profitable business and yet help every worthwhile effort that there has been. Then there is Mrs. Henry Crocker Russell who has shown great interest in social affairs. She is the last member of the Crocker family of that era. She has been tremendously interested in social work.

Do you know that the other day when the Chest needed something from the first committee, and that I am the last surviving member except Mr. Heller who is ill.

Mrs. Allen Charles is probably more deeply immersed in community work than any woman in San Francisco. She is a Stanford graduate and is doing a grand piece of work.

Baum: Most of these people you have mentioned are volunteer workers. Are there any professional people who have worked in the field for a long time?

McLaughlin: Sorenson who is the YMCA man in San Francisco. I have not done enough in welfare work to know the other people.

Baum: What about clergymen?

McLaughlin: You realize that Bishop Pike is a very controversial person. There has not been anyone in the Catholic Church that I can think of. In the Council for the Social Work there is Mrs. William Rogers who was the chairman besides being very effective in international relations. She has done wonderful work in international relations. There are certain of the judges.

There is a man by the name of Solomon who is connected with the Crocker Bank. He knows a great deal about social work. John May of the San Francisco Foundation. Leslie Ganyard could tell you the whole history of the Rosenberg Foundation. That would include Max Rosenberg

McLaughlin: who did wonderful work. He has been dead for several years. Some of those people would take the Council of Civic Unity, the American Civil Liberties Union.

You ought to get some of the young people who have worked in the Chest. I suppose that would be Mortimer Fleishhacker, Jr.

Baum: It would not just have to be social work. I was thinking also of political, city planning, and other things.

McLaughlin: Mrs. Morse Erskine has done beautiful work in city planning. You see, what you want to get from her are the names of the people who carried the burden during the years when it was not popular. SPUR now is one of the things that people listen to and has a big membership. Of course, Alice Griffith is gone but Mrs. Erskine would carry that on. Mrs. Erskine, when it comes to housing, is one of the pioneers. She is the pioneer left; there is no doubt about that. Her mother was Florence Ward's daughter, I think, and Florence Ward was one of the fine women physicians.

I think that John May could give you things more quickly than anyone else because he has been on the San Francisco Foundation and the City Planning Committee.

Morse Erskine Is Dead at 72

Memorial services will be held today (Friday) for Morse Erskine, distinguished San Francisco attorney and member of a pioneer California family. He died Wednesday at the age of 72.

A fighting, practical liberal who was devoted to many civic causes, Mr. Erskine also represented such top California corporations as the Bank of America, Trans-America Development Company, and the American Building Maintenance Corporation.

Mr. Erskine managed to find time from his active senior partnership in the firm of Erskine, Tulley, Boyd and Singer to champion controversial stands in the area of Urban Renewal, rehabilitation of ex-convicts, and professional standards for Attorneys.

As attorney for the California Heritage Council, he led an unrelenting but unsuccessful fight against construction of the Portsmouth Garage which he opposed for the historical and aesthetic value of its Kearny and Jackson site.

In the area of standards for attorneys, Mr. Erskine strongly opposed the existing loyalty oath for lawyers. In testimony before the State Legislature in 1951, he called the proposal "repugnant to our institutions" without "accomplishing the purpose of excluding Communists from practicing law."

He was one-time president of the city's Planning and Housing Association, predecessor of the San Francisco Planning & Urban Renewal Association, and a former head of the Northern California Service League, a prisoner rehabilitation group.

Following World War I, in which he served as a United States Army lieutenant, he joined Keyes and Erskine which eventually became Erskine, Tulley, Boyd and Singer.

MORSE ERSKINE
'. . . a fighting liberal'

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; a son, Dr. John Morse Erskine; a daughter, Florence Gantner, and three grandchildren.

Today's services will be held at 4 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, Franklin and Geary streets.

Memorial contributions to the Sierra Club are preferred.

CHAPTER XII

THE INSTITUTE OF PACIFIC RELATIONS, 1925-1947
(March 4, 1968 interview - Mrs. McLaughlin's home in San Francisco)

Genesis of the Institute of Pacific Relations

Baum: Mrs. McLaughlin, we have planned to discuss the Institute of Pacific Relations today. I know you have spent a good deal of time planning what you want to say, so let's start right in.

McLaughlin: I have asked for the opportunity to give what I say was my personal experience with the Institute of Pacific Relations. I asked this because there have been many questions about this Institution, many attacks on it, and some people would feel my version of the Institute of Pacific Relations was either mistaken or biased.

In the early spring of 1927 I was notified that I had been chosen to be a member of the meeting of the Institute of Pacific Relations to be held in Honolulu. I see that the volume of the summary of that meeting is right here. And we know whether it was in October, or just what month during the year it was.

Baum: July 15, 1927.

McLaughlin: Mrs. Jesse Steinhart had been asked before I was, for that same time. She had refused and I imagine suggested I would do it.

My understanding, then and now, is that the genesis of the Institute of Pacific Relations was due to three movements. Here in California

McLaughlin: Dr. Wilbur had headed a race relations survey, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur of Stanford. He, as anybody who cares to read his biography would know, was very conscious, before most people, of the movements of the day and he was seriously disturbed because of the attitude of this area toward the minorities and I presume due to our treatment of the Japanese. You remember the bills that were passed in Congress in 1924.

Reports were explained to the general public, they hadn't gone to that conference. And it was simple to get the gist of that.

Baum: What reports?

McLaughlin: The race relations reports in a previous conference. He headed this conference on race relations.

I did go to Hawaii in '27. There I learned of two other organizations which had worked on the problem of the race relations of the peoples of the Pacific. One in Honolulu. My recollection is that there was a man, I think by the name of Forbes, who worked, I think probably for the chamber of commerce of Honolulu, who suggested various meetings of professionals from the various countries who are our neighbors on the Pacific.

They had a very fortunate, intelligent, able group of the businessmen in Hawaii. Their executive there was Charles Loomis, who was the director of the YMCA in Honolulu. Through him contact was made with the Y, particularly in China. That group was headed up by David Yui, who had been director of the YMCA and by Soichi Saito from Japan.

Baum: I have the list here of the members, so afterwards we could go through them and check.

McLaughlin: Yes. The directors of the Y in China and Japan were practically envoys from America because of the very fine work that they had done interpreting America to the countries to which they were assigned.

In addition to that group, there was <u>one</u> group which had been headed up in New York. I

McLaughlin: think at that time it was called the Inquiry. Of that group, Edward Carter had been its director and the chairman of it. And the man who headed the group, from New York, was Jerome Greene, then a banker with Lee, Higginson and Company, a man who had been secretary of the board of trustees of Harvard and in addition had been born in Japan.

I should go back to where I started this and say that the first meeting of the Institute of Pacific Relations had been two years before I went, in other words, in '25. The woman from here who had gone was Mrs. Parker Maddox, who came home very enthusiastic about the potentialities of an organization of this kind. At that meeting they discovered that it would be necessary to have committees working on the real problems which existed between the countries around the Pacific. And there must be somebody heading up the research.

So, to the meeting in '27 the secretary of research from each country came along with the group.

Honolulu Conference of IPR, 1927

I now continue with the meeting of '27. To that meeting there had been invited a British group headed by Sir Frederick White and with a personnel of distinguished British scholars.

I think that it was at this meeting, in '27, that each group came with young secretaries--again very carefully selected. Malcolm MacDonald, son of Prime Minister MacDonald, was a very thoughtful young man with a truly adult mind. And we could say the same of the Chinese, and particularly the Japanese group.

Baum: How old were these young men?

McLaughlin: Malcolm MacDonald, I think, had been out of college a year or two. Malcolm MacDonald gave

McLaughlin: every promise of developing into the distinguished citizen of Great Britain which has occurred in his life since '27.

The group gathered in New York included James Shotwell of Columbia, professors from Harvard, plus some very high type businessmen who are leaders of communities.

It was soon apparent why the British had sent so distinguished a group.

Baum: You said New York there. Do you mean New York or Honolulu?

McLaughlin: New York. New York was in back of encouraging these groups.

The Chinese, because of the actions of Great Britain toward the Cantonese in their community, headed up by a recent difficulty in Shanghai--that turned the Chinese against the British. Before the first week had passed, Sir Frederick White had been invited to go back, by the Chinese group, to China. Whatever their objectives were, the British really contributed a great deal of scholarship and understanding of the areas of the Pacific.

James Shotwell was a day or two late. He had waited in New York until our Secretary of State, Kellogg, had come back from his conference with Briand of France. Mr. Kellogg had brought back with him the Kellogg-Briand Pact with its suggestion of certain changes in the Charter of the League of Nations which might satisfy its opponents in America. I always considered James Shotwell one of the great men in American scholarship, a very careful, thoughtful thinker, and a man who could approach any one of these problems with a creative attitude. It was terrifically interesting to watch the impact of this on the conference.

The Japanese were particularly interested and realized they had to have it very carefully explained to them so they could take it home to their government.

McLaughlin: At the conference the only person who made difficulty about the Kellogg-Briand Pact was the man from Harvard. [George Grafton Wilson] The only explanation of his attitude must have been that it was Shotwell that brought it there instead of himself. (Laughter)

I'm afraid the thing I best remember about the Kellogg-Briand Pact is that, as a very clever woman once said about it, "The Kellogg-Briand Pact was an attempt to give false teeth to the League of Nations, and as usual false teeth are uncomfortable and often discarded." (Laughter)

In '25 there was no person who really knew what the immigration laws about the Pacific were. These were brought forward and discussed. And I think there was better understanding for the reasons.

One of the most delightful Chinese there was Jimmy Yen. It was most enlightening to have this young man--as somebody said, in an ice cream suit--explain how he got started on the effort to reduce the Chinese characters to about a thousand characters; so, with the effect, that if these were adopted, more Chinese could be more literate. He'd started it during the First World War when there was difficulty with the laborers brought over to dig the trenches in France, and similar projects, who felt completely separated from their home and their families and were so unhappy.

He had started, gone back home after the war, and had worked in his own province to experiment with the effort of education for the average Chinese along these lines. He had already spread himself out into the social needs of his own people, explaining that until he'd met the Chinese laborers in France he'd never known a Chinese peasant, since he belonged to the elite. This had awakened all his fine sense of responsibility.

Baum: You say he was charming. Can you give more details?

McLaughlin: He was very clever, very amusing, and with a genuine understanding of citizens from other countries, and could explain what he was doing in a manner that was most convincing, and on the whole very simple.

There was some very good research that had been done in the interim that was brought to the tables. We were broken up into groups for their consideration. The conference ended under the fine leadership of Ray Lyman Wilbur with a sense that this conference, this organization was satisfying a great need and it was the obligation of each person there to carry the message when they returned to their own community.

In those days, of course, we went back and forth in a boat, so what was not finished at that conference was talked continuously on the boat.

Chester Rowell, of California, was at that conference. I had a sense, as the years passed, of his greatness. He was a scholar with a photographic memory, a newspaperman who had a tremendous sense of responsibility, but also a deep understanding of the problems not only of the world, but particularly of the United States. He was utterly selfless, putting himself to the use of any organization where all his fine qualities could be used.

Carl Alsberg of Stanford, of the Food Research Institute, was also there. From his understanding came the plan to make a real study of food around the Pacific.

The businessmen of Honolulu recognized the value of this conference. Of course, one of the leading figures was Wallace Alexander, born in Hawaii, with his business interests there. He had for years been working hard to modify the point of view of Californians toward the Japanese and was recognized by the community as a leading and valuable citizen.

The most distinguished American woman at the conference was Carrie Chapman Catt, who made a great mistake in making pronouncements about Hawaii without having done any study. She infuriated businessmen.

McLaughlin: The woman who contributed most was Miss Grace Abbott, Chief of the Children's Bureau, recognized as one of the great social workers of the United States.

John Condliffe was brought into this conference from New Zealand for research work though I have no recollection of his contribution at the time. The New Zealand group was very distinguished. Walter Nash, at that time, was a battling Socialist, red-hot for the things he believed in. And since he was a person who knew what he was talking about he could talk almost anybody down.

Peter Buck's heritage was very apparent at that time. He was as articulate as the average Irishman, plus his Maori mother's understanding of the Maoris. Later, of course, he wrote some very fine books on the Maoris and was made director of the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, which had a great heritage of money to be used gathering materials or research with regard to the Hawaiian natives. He did a fine job when he was the director of the Bishop Museum.

The only time I've ever seen any worthwhile person getting angry was when Chester Rowell listened to the British as they expressed some compliments about the Maoris. He said in response, "Yes, you respected the Maoris because you could never subdue them."

San Francisco Office of IPR Opened, 1927

When the group from California returned, Dr. Wilbur ordered that there should be an office for the Institute of Pacific Relations opened in San Francisco. Alfred Esberg, who had great interest about the problems of the Pacific area, was made chairman and gathered together a working group, of which I was one.

McLaughlin: From 1927 to 1947 I worked with this group. The plan here was to present the findings of an institute of this sort, the stimulus which came from fine research, to the community and try to translate to the average person the problems as they were presented by experienced people, with emphasis on the scholarship.

We sent people to various organizations to speak. But we worked for years with the effort to get something about the Pacific into the schools and into the colleges. We took care of the various members of the Institute as they arrived from either the east or the west, placing them before worthwhile organizations to discuss with these organizations the difficulties that were arising between the nations of the Pacific.

We had the complete cooperation of the University of California, Stanford, and Mills College. Whether or not they had ever been at the conference, we could be sure of their help. And there were experts in all of these organizations.

Kyoto Conference of IPR, 1929

In '29 the research that had been started in preparation for the '27 conference was continued, and the work done on the plan for research on food and population with Carl Alsberg as director.

Baum: This was the Kyoto conference?

McLaughlin: Yes. The conference was held in Kyoto. We had even a longer trip out to Japan and back. There were no planes in those days. It took a little less than three weeks to go. On each boat there was a group who had plenty of topics for careful and thoughtful conversation.

Aurelia Henry Reinhardt, of Mills, went to that conference, being welcomed, when she landed

McLaughlin: in Japan, with open arms because she had students that had worked with her.

Next in importance among the women was a prominent member of the League of Women Voters international relations group, and her husband, a businessman who had just retired and found this a great opportunity to indulge in his life's desire: a greater knowledge of the arts of the Pacific.

Baum: Here's a woman from Illinois listed, Mrs. J.W. Morrisson.

McLaughlin: That's the woman. Her father had been a distinguished American, and she was truly enlightened.

The conference was held in Nara and Kyoto, Japan, not in Tokyo. Of course it was a great privilege to see Japan under such auspices. The Japanese man who had been the chairman of the Japanese group was now prime minister and Ray Lyman Wilbur had left the chairmanship and gone to serve as Secretary of the Interior in Mr. Hoover's cabinet.

The Institute of Pacific Relations was always very careful not to be swept along by politics or any such situation. But it did give distinction to the conference.

Jerome Greene was chairman of the conference, a very happy choice, since--as I've explained--he had been born in Japan and, as he said the first night, it was quite simple for him to drop into his native language, at which time, with true sincerity, he began to speak Japanese to the people who couldn't understand his English.

'29 was a year in which feeling was running very high. It took a person of great distinction in all of the conferences to handle the members of their group.

Who was the chairman of the Japanese group?

Baum: Nitobe.

McLaughlin: The chairman of the Japanese group, Dr. Nitobe, had worked for years for better understanding with

McLaughlin: Americans. At this time he said he would never enter America as long as the exclusion law was on the books. He handled, as I say, a group, he handled the conference with rare ability, considering in both the Japanese and Chinese groups there were some hotheads.

In the Chinese group there was a member whose brother was one of the leading political figures in China. There came a time when Dr. Nitobe...this man was so rambunctious in answering Matsuoka, a similar hothead, a Japanese, that Dr. Nitobe carefully announced that it would have to be decided that such things would not be tolerated or he would have to resign. Things were on the quivering edge. But Dr. Nitobe was really a very great person and though his patience was almost exhausted, he went on.

Baum: Were these people arguing between China and Japan or against the United States?

McLaughlin: Arguing between China and Japan.

There were some very great people at that conference, especially among the businessmen. James Shotwell was again there. Quincy Wright and his wife also. Labor was brought in in the person of Paul Scharrenberg, Secretary of the California Federation of Labor.

Paul Scharrenberg never ceased his interest in the Institute of Pacific Relations, and really paid a heavy price in his own labor group because he really worked; in California he tried to create a better attitude. This in spite of the fact that he was on the committee that had worked under V.S. McClatchy for years to continue the attacks on the Japanese.

(I was looking for a businessman's name in the proceedings here and I don't find it.)

We had, of course, the opportunities by arriving a little previous to the conference--it was Kyoto where the conference was--and during the few half-days that we had off...

We had an example during one of those half-days of what can be done between peoples whose political affairs are so antagonistic, and yet

McLaughlin: who can meet on cultural planes. Dr. Dan, son of the great Baron Dan, of Japan--Baron Dan was a great businessman and one of the men who made that Meiji era. His son was professor of art in the Imperial University and he led us on the expedition to Nara. And with us was the hot-headed Chinese that had been difficult.

When we got to the oldest wooden building in Japan, with the very beautiful, small Buddha, one of the first statues ever made in metal in Japan, and extremely beautiful. Very small. It was on a little wooden pedestal, with a band running around the top. That band had Syrian lions on it. It was obvious to any uncultured eye that those were Syrian lions. Well, Professor Dan and the Chinese got so excited over the intercommunication, the "silken trail" across Asia, the communication in such matters between China and Japan, that all unpleasant remarks or attitudes were forgotten.

Among our secretaries was John D. Rockefeller III, one of the most responsible young men I ever met. He certainly developed along the same lines. I think this is the first time that Frederick V. Field appeared. And Mr. Alexander had brought his daughter with him. [Martha Gerbode] Paul Scharrenberg had brought his daughter, Helen, with him. And Mrs. Morrisson's son. I don't think they were official but they all helped out as secretaries.

There were interesting habits of the Japanese. We were all aware that our rooms were searched. You wonder in my case--well, it might have been that Martha Alexander, who was one of the young secretaries, was my roommate. But Mr. Rowell was terribly funny about all this because he always had some funny story about the way they had disturbed his papers. (Laughter)

I can't remember whether he was doing publicity for the Institute or not. At that time. No. At some of the other conferences he really gave a tremendous amount of time.

By this time John Condliffe, as the research secretary, was making a real impact.

McLaughlin: And behind the scenes there were some very unhappy circumstances. By this time, Edward Carter was showing his "will to power." J. Merle Davis had been secretary of the international group and had helped start the conference. He also had been secretary of the race relations survey which I mentioned was held before the Institute of Pacific Relations was started.

Also, John Condliffe left at that time. I would judge because he refused to have honest research tampered with by Carter.

The Americans were a group to be proud of. Too many to mention even here, and probably didn't know very much more than I did about the unhappiness that was going on in the wings, as it were. However I've always been grateful--I can remember John Condliffe's quiet dignity as he left and watched his progress in life since then. I think he was in Michigan for a time. Then he was called to the League of Nations in Geneva, where he alone wrote all their economic reports while he was there. After ten years he came back to America and was in the economics department at the University of California.

Baum: I don't understand your remark about "refused to have honest research tampered with."

McLaughlin: Just that. Just that.

Baum: What kind of tampering, and for what purpose?

McLaughlin: Carter wanted things colored the way he wanted them colored. Tampering is just--it's not blaming anybody. He would't take orders from Carter.

John Condliffe was in the University of California where he taught with distinction, leaving there only to go to the Stanford Research Institute now.*

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*Professor Condliffe has deposited his papers in The Bancroft Library. At present (1968) he is writing his autobiography which will include a chapter on the Institute of Pacific Relations. WKB.

McLaughlin: I'll always remember once at an Asilomar conference of the World Affairs Conference I said something to a young man about John Condliffe and the magnificent summary he had done on the conference. I said to this young man, "In '29 one wondered what would happen." And he said, "He's gone through all these years constantly increasing in power and judgment, how beautifully he's been tempered by his troubles."

One of the interesting Americans there was James Weldon Johnson, a Negro, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, distinguished graduate of fine universities, who represented us as consul somewhere--I can't remember--in the Caribbean. Among his fine products were his books on the Negroes, one of which was God's Trombones, which was, in a sense, blank verse written on his slave grandfather's sermons and the spirituals which he and his brother had gathered, interpreting them to the music that was necessary for their proper arranging. It was a great privilege to know him because he was what would now be called a gradualist. But a great man handling a very difficult position, and a really charming companion.

By this time the people who were to be writing about food and population started to be gathered. In Japan it was Nasu. In China it was Pearl Buck's husband, Lossing Buck. The work was being started on research in the Dutch East Indies. There were now people from Australia, some fine scholars, again people from New Zealand. They tried at various times to have someone from France. I don't think that was very effective.

I think that it was at this conference that there was an observer from Russia. If he were at this conference, no one got anything out of him except the newspaper people.

When we crossed the ocean, on the return voyage, there was constant continuing of our education on the boat. Dr. Webster, of the University of London, a Britisher, was a real teacher.

Baum: The British went back with you on your ship.

McLaughlin: Oh, yes. And it was very interesting to see Lady Astor's son running around asking questions. He started this one day by asking everybody the question of how the parliament of Japan was organized. No one could answer the technical details except Chester Rowell. By the time he had finished he was surrounded by a group of about fifty people and had answered all the questions and finally ended with the native settlement of Australia and New Zealand.

There were constant cables across the Pacific. The day we landed every organization in San Francisco had a speaker from that conference. John D. Rockefeller went to the Chamber of Commerce.

We got Weldon Johnson on the train to get home to New York. Every organization, as I say, had a speaker, including all the scholars, foreign scholars.

Baum: Was it your office here that organized that?

McLaughlin: Yes, we had cabled them. This was all organized on our way home, then arranged by our office.

I think probably, one of the interesting ways to end this experience, I might say before I went to Japan I went to see the editors of the papers in San Francisco to urge them to carry any news that the telegraph would bring into the papers here of the conference. The Examiner, in true Hearst spirit said, "We will not publish anything except a row. If you have a row, we'll publish it." (Laughter)

Banff Conference, 1933

This was '29. Did you say you have the proceedings for '30 there?

Baum: '33, at Banff.

McLaughlin: '33...the conference of '33... One of my chief recollections of that conference was the attitude of most of the Canadian scholars; they took on, it seemed to me, a certain lack of dignity, accepting themselves as a colony of Great Britain. That really doesn't do justice to the conference because it was a stimulating conference with productive results.

Then we'll have to say that there was a fine group of young secretaries. Ivison Macadam, secretary of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, was one of the fine people there. And I think that young MacDonald was still there. I remember distinctly...

Baum: They do list the secretaries.

McLaughlin: I want to see who the British leader was.

Baum: Here's Great Britain. [Looking at Proceedings of the Fifth Conference of the Institute of Pacific Relations, Problems of the Pacific, 1933. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1934.]

McLaughlin: Right Honorable Sir Herbert Samuel, leader of the liberal parliamentary party and a distinguished political figure in later years.

No, MacDonald wasn't there.

Baum: Am I correct that these three conferences were the ones you attended?

McLaughlin: I attended one more.

Baum: Was the Banff Conference as stimulating a conference as these ones that were more in the Pacific. Or did fewer scholars come?

McLaughlin: No. It was a stimulating conference, as all of these were, because there were such fine people. But it was hard to sit and discuss so much misery as there was around the world in '33. And there was this fast-gathering cloud between Japan and China. This was very difficult, very difficult.

McLaughlin: By this time, I think the group on the Dutch East Indies appeared. There was one good scholar on it.

Newton Baker was chairman of the Pacific Council. I think by this time Jerome Greene's bank had collapsed, which made us all very unhappy, though he met it with great dignity.

As one goes over the names at this conference one must agree these were distinguished people. And there was a man from New Zealand, and one from Russia.

Hu Shih, the great scholar of China, who was working at this time on an effort to be made of saving all the fine points of China's past but modifying them, or absorbing into China's past those things that could make it prepared to work with the West. This was the period of his great popularity with the students in China because he had taken the classics of China and interpreted them in the common language of the people of China. This attempt gave inspiration to the students and he was greatly beloved and a great privilege to have him at the conference, as was also Dr. Nitobe.

Baum: Well, it's about time for me to go, Mrs. McLaughlin and I think we're not finished. Perhaps I should come back very shortly and finish up the later days of the Institute.

McLaughlin: What I have to do is to do the thing that no one else has done, and that is finish Edward Carter: what caused the difficulties of the Institute of Pacific Relations.

How soon do you have to leave?

Baum: I should leave very promptly, I should be home by four.

McLaughlin: Well, I went to one more conference.

Baum: Let's not race through it, because I think there are a lot of things yet. Frederick Field was a problem, too, which you'll need a little time on.

McLaughlin: I'll finish it now if you'll spare me ten minutes, and then we'll see if you want to go on.

Baum: (Laughter) All right, I'll spare ten minutes, and then we'll see.

McLaughlin: I did not go to the conference that was held in China because there was illness at home. This was a very difficult council to handle because of the strong feeling between China and Japan. But it was a profitable conference because it showed how brave the Chinese could be. I always remember describing how our darling Dr. Nasu, who was tall and thin--his Adam's apple was the only thing that showed his nervousness--as he walked down the gangplank into China. But their scholarship and their personalities were respected.

(Tape ran out - end of interview.)

Comment on the Conferences
(March 22, 1968 - Mrs. McLaughlin's home in San Francisco)

Baum: As I recall, you were just beginning to talk about Edward Carter. You had just started that and we ran out of tape, so you said that we would just backtrack and start that whole thing again.

McLaughlin: Well, I'll drop the Carter story for the present and I'll get back to the Institute as a whole because I realize I've said a lot on conferences and not very much on what our own office was doing.

Baum: No, I don't think you've mentioned almost anything about the San Francisco office.

McLaughlin: I said a few things in the beginning, but not enough, and I'll have to draw it all now, together.

McLaughlin: Now, let me see, the Banff conference was in 1933. In the Banff conference--in fact, in any of the conferences--there were always two very distinguished groups: the British always brought some of their very best men. At that conference wasn't the only American that was astonished at the more or less arrogant attitude of the British, either members of Parliament or scholars, toward the colonial people. Some of the colonials were really a delightful and a distinguished group. And they did go on afterwards to have a very serious conference on the subject of the relation of the colonies to Great Britain.

However, when the province of which Banff was a part gave a dinner, it was done exceedingly well as far as the speakers and so forth. At the end music started to play something that was very familiar to me since at that time we sang "The Star Spangled Banner" in patriotic moments. But every man, whether from England or from the colonies, saluted in the same fashion simultaneously as they sang "God Save the King."

There were other conferences. The one at Virginia Beach I did not attend.

I think, then, I could summarize and say that at each one of these conferences there were distinguished and tremendously interesting and stimulating people who more and more were grappling with the problems that the research, under Dr. Alsberg, was bringing up and having ready for each conference.

One event in '33, naturally, had a great deal of discussion, that the Americans had brought about the difficulties that we were having, or the way that we were meeting our difficulties in the United States of America during the period of the Depression.

More and more I was conscious of the young secretaries of each group. The one at Banff had a particularly fine group of secretaries from Japan. These were boys from the most distinguished families, who had met their obligations in education and thoughtfulness and culture in a most interesting family.

McLaughlin: There was always the discussion about the Russians and I think that it was after this conference that a Canadian was made chairman of the international council of the Institute of Pacific Relations.

There was, naturally, a tremendous interest in really penetrating the enigmas in regard to Russia and a great desire to get at the facts. The Canadian chairman went to Moscow, went to the office of the group that had been working with the Institute of Pacific Relations, found nobody there. In pursuing the people that had shown interest in the Institute he saw, with great pleasure, the chairman of the group on the street and went up to him in great relief to find somebody, only to have the man completely ignore him and pass him without speaking to him.

This sort of thing was very difficult for the sincere scholars. And it was a great shock to some of the people, who were really convinced that the Russians had a new way for the world.

Baum: Was it dangerous for this Russian delegate to indicate in Russia, that he was affiliated?

McLaughlin: Nobody, I think, had a real explanation for this, except some of the vagaries of the situation as it changed. And apparently from that time on there would always be a question whether you could say that Russia was a reliable part of the Institute of Pacific Relations, though there were some people extremely persistent in keeping up this connection, principally Edward Carter, who was international secretary.

By that time San Francisco had a Russian consul general. He had been a professor of international constitutional law in Russia, with the emphasis of his scholarship on the countries of the Pacific. So, shortly after he was here he made a contact with us. I really saw a great deal of him, and found him a very interesting person, delightful socially, with a wide-open mind in every direction, and particularly interested in what the Institute of Pacific Relations was doing. He lived in a good deal of luxury here and did not follow the usual pattern of the Russians of ignoring the average Americans.

McLaughlin: When the plans were being made for the conference to be held in Yosemite Park in California in '36, he was really excited; he wanted to keep in touch with just what was going on.

Fred Field happened to come out from the New York office. So I told him I thought he'd better let me take him to call on the Russian consul general, and told him how interested he had been in the problems of the Institute of Pacific Relations. During the conversation the Russian consul said to Mr. Field, "Why do you go off into the mountains that way? Why don't you go down to Del Monte?"

Mr. Field looked a little abashed and said, "Well, we didn't think it would be well to discuss the miseries of millions of people in luxurious surroundings."

"Well," said the consul general, "we might as well go ahead and be comfortable!" (Laughter)

It was a shock for him to find out that as an official he was not allowed to go to the conference. But he did have somebody at the conference, which, of course, was held on the floor of the Yosemite Valley. But the Scripps-Howard papers told me afterwards that either he or a representative was up at Glacier Point Hotel, which was open at that time, and through the entire conference, which seemed to upset the Scripps-Howard man a good deal. (Laughter)

Baum: He must have thought the conference goings-on were pretty important then.

McLaughlin: Oh, yes, he thought it was terribly important. And he was widely and intellectually interested in the whole matter.

Yosemite Conference, 1936

McLaughlin: That conference, of course, was an exceedingly difficult conference to handle because of the tremendous tensions between the Chinese and the Japanese. The Japanese sent a group of twenty-eight headed by one of their very fine diplomats, a man of intellectual grace and knowledge, as well as experience in the world.

Baum: [Reading] Japan, Tadao Yamakawa.

McLaughlin: But there were all types included in the twenty-eight. One of the amusing embarrassments was that we had arranged for dinner parties for these visiting groups as they went through and they insisted that all twenty-eight had to go to the same dinner. I couldn't ask anybody else to do it, and didn't know whether I could possibly find a caterer who could get twenty-eight people in my dining room, and do it nicely. But we managed.

Baum: You couldn't invite any other guests, then, could you?

McLaughlin: I had to have somebody, I suppose. I've forgotten what we did. (Laughter) But this was terrible. They would not separate, which showed how no one trusted anyone. Because, as I say, there were all types.

A man for instance, a Japanese admiral, was just a caricature of what we thought a Japanese admiral would be like and with the same lack of social graces. There were some really great scholars from Japan and some very brave people.

The secretary of the then prime minister of Japan was here. His name was Ushiba, from a very distinguished family, young and most attractive. I want to say that I consider that he showed more bravery than I've ever seen any man show, at one of the study tables. One of the Americans put him right on the spot as to his attitude toward the military people which was of course stupid beyond excuse. He drew up his

McLaughlin: tall, slender figure, looked around the table, and was honest in his answer.

In order that you may realize how serious all of this was, I'll have to repeat what happened after the conference when I had Mrs. Kenzo Takayanagi, the wife of one of their very fine scholars, to luncheon. In Japan in a kimono she was adorable. Here in American clothes, of course, she'd lost a good deal of her charm. But also, after the Yosemite conference she was very subdued. Somebody said something that opened up an area of conversation that brought out this reply: "My husband and I expect to go home and be murdered." This is a little startling to be said at a lunch party! And there was no exaggeration about it, either. They weren't murdered by the way. But he was honest in his scholarship. And the military, of course, at that time was really very difficult.

Baum: And there was one of these military representatives with your group? I have a Lieutenant-General Rihachiro Banzai, Retired, listed here.

McLaughlin: I don't know.

Baum: He doesn't sound like an admiral, but he does sound like a military man.

McLaughlin: No, it doesn't, but I think that was the admiral. (Laughter)

Baum: It might've been. He's the one you thought was just like a caricature of a Japanese military leader.

McLaughlin: Yes. I said there was tension between the Japanese and the Chinese. I should have started by saying that when I went to meet the Japanese group when they landed on the wharf, they were very conscious of the tension between the Japanese and the Americans. The longshoremen had brought their luggage and deliberately mixed it up on the dock, making it necessary to be there hours. This in contrast to the fact that when the Americans landed in Japan in '29, we had the courtesy of the port.

McLaughlin: There was one Russian that I remember that was at that conference that, I think, was supposed to be just an observer, or be with the press. His name is important.

Baum: [Looking at Proceedings] There's nobody here officially listed from Russia.

McLaughlin: No.

Baum: Here are observers. Oh, yes, here's USSR: V.E. Matilev, Director, Institute of Great Soviet World Atlas, and Vladimir Rom, United States Correspondent, Izvestia.

McLaughlin: Rom, that's the man. I've asked for the name of this Russian because he was with the news people all the time. And I think he'd been to other conferences.

Baum: It lists in here that he'd been to the 1929 conference.

McLaughlin: Yes, I think he'd been to Japan because I remembered him from that time. He had world experience. And later on, at the time of the purges, he was gathered in with one of the great leaders that was purged, Radek. And Rom at that time was saved from the purges by the effort of the newspapermen who had worked with him.

Baum: Were you favorably impressed by this Rom?

McLaughlin: [Shakes head in negative]

I'd like to end the story of the consul general of Russia here in San Francisco. Not long after the Yosemite conference he was called home and has never been heard of since. It was a great tragedy because the man was a real Marxist and a follower of Lenin's but also a man who didn't wear blinders. Really a tragedy for the Russians.

It was very interesting to see, at the Yosemite conference, a man like Chester Rowell, a really great Californian, handling the press. At that time there were newspapermen from all of the fine papers of the United States. Their appreciation of him as a person and as a scholar and a newspaperman was a very pleasant thing to watch.

Baum: Did the foreign correspondents know of Chester Rowell by his reputation?

McLaughlin: Chester Rowell had had charge of the press at the Chinese conference. And he spent a long time in regard to that conference. How many other conferences, I've forgotten, except that he was completely in touch with the Institute constantly, and gave it his full time and attention whenever he was called upon.

Baum: And his special contribution was to handle press relations?

McLaughlin: Oh, yes, he was in charge of the press there and he had charge of the press in the Chinese conference, too. He was in Japan, so I suppose he had charge of the press there. He was very amusing about the way the Japanese searched his rooms. (Laughter) Very amusing. Because apparently it was very apparent constantly.

Baum: They have been officially very courteous, but apparently they searched your rooms, anyhow.

McLaughlin: Everybody's room. The tensions, as I say, between the Chinese and the Japanese at that time, were extremely difficult.

Baum: That was the Yosemite conference which you're speaking of, which was 1936?

McLaughlin: 1936. It was exceedingly difficult.

Work of the San Francisco Office; Problems With the New York Office

This now leads me up to the real reason for my insisting that I want to get my version of the Institute of Pacific Relations in this oral history. The handling of the Yosemite conference by the New York office brought out all of the minor irritations and maddening discourtesies of the New York office. At that time it was pretty

McLaughlin: well understood by a good many of us why there was difficulty.

You see, I started, I think, by saying that the Institute of Pacific Relations office in San Francisco was opened after the '27 conference when Ray Lyman Wilbur, president of Stanford and chairman of the conference, wanted a Pacific coast office. I worked for that office for twenty years and realized that our difficulties came from the fact that Carter thought that if he ignored us enough we would get tired and close up. (Laughter) And apparently we just didn't have any sense. There was work to be done and fine people wanted it done. There was a necessity of an office here, where there was so much traveling between the Pacific countries and America, an office to help in minor, or in major ways.

Well, to sum it up, I might say that whether it was because when the money was collected, it all had to go to New York and then our small staff of two people here were kept waiting for their checks, or the fact that whatever promises they ever made to our office here were ignored, or broken, if possible--for instance, Reginald Bell was YM secretary at Stanford and getting his Ph.D. and supporting his family. He and Donald Nugent were working friends. Don Nugent was getting his Ph.D. to be an expert on Japan. I don't know how we came together with them. I imagine it was from a younger group called the Junior Institute of Pacific Relations. This had no connections with the official organization at all. They were a group of brilliant college students who, through their own efforts, had put on some very good conferences in regard to the problems of the Pacific.

One of the great needs we found in working with the schools--and I thing that I've mentioned before that our chief work here was working with the schools. One of our needs turned out to be a project in which Rex Bell and Don Nugent collaborated and planned a syllabus for the high schools on the countries of the Pacific. This was carefully worked out with the American office in New York and guaranteed that it would be

McLaughlin: published. The first copy was rejected. The second copy had been carefully worked on and presented. Fred Field came out, and had been told, apparently, to reject it again by Carter. Now, this was not on the basis that it was not needed or it was not well done but they were determined not to have anything of this kind come out.

Baum: Out of the San Francisco office or out of anywhere?

McLaughlin: Out of the San Francisco office. I've never seen two men handle an intellectual weakling more firmly than Field was handled at that moment by Bell and Nugent in our office. Here were these two men, earning their own living, getting their Ph.D.s, paying their way from Palo Alto to San Francisco. And then Field set out to make fools of them. The book was finally published, but with such a background of a lack of appreciation of what we were doing here.

This office, aside from any connections with the national, was constantly working with every educational forum. We had a library committee which again carefully worked out with the New York office to have our library committee composed of the college and good public libraries, not anybody from San Francisco, but from Berkeley, Oakland, Contra Costa County, Mills, University of California, and Stanford. These women, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Potter [this is probably Mrs. Elizabeth Gray Potter], the librarian at Mills, arranged to have each month printed an area list of the best books written at that time for use in the public libraries. These were sold for five or ten cents apiece and finally paid for themselves after Mrs. Potter paid for the printing of the first one herself.

Baum: This was on Pacific problems?

McLaughlin: Yes. Again, these people were treated very badly, though nothing was sent out to the public until they had passed on it in New York and had met all of any requirements that had been laid down. The amount of reading, carefully done, by these women cannot be overestimated. And the amount of good they did for the libraries up and

McLaughlin: down the Pacific coast cannot be exaggerated, and the value of this.

Aside from working with the schools, we ran a speaker's bureau. As people went through from different countries, we placed them as speakers in the fine organizations not only in San Francisco but up and down the coast.

Baum: People from other countries or from this country who were experts.

McLaughlin: Our natural contacts through the Institute brought people through here, and we placed them in areas in California and other places when necessary.

Baum: Were these speakers primarily American or foreign scholars, or both?

McLaughlin: Both. Any scholars that came through. And any businessmen. For instance the man who was the editor of the great Japanese newspaper--Mainichi was the name of it--we arranged that he would have small lunches with the leaders of the community and then make speeches to a group like the Commonwealth Club. Any of the leaders that came through here that would allow us to, we kept them in contact with the public here. We were constantly working with organizations like the League of Women Voters, who have study groups, giving them this stimulus of the materials we had, in other words trying to spread to every avenue possible in this community and up and down California through various contacts.

Our first chairman was Alfred Esberg, a very successful businessman in San Francisco, who was one of the group that for years had worked from our Chamber of Commerce to increase the knowledge and enlightenment about the peoples of the Pacific. He was tremendously interested. He followed each committee and the work of the committees with intelligence and discrimination. He finally was perfectly disgusted with Carter's devious methods; he did not lose interest, but did not continue active participation.

I ought to be able to remember every one of the chairmen that we had because it was a privilege

McLaughlin: to work with every one of them. But I can't remember the sequence.

Baum: Perhaps we can find that. I don't think that's in the conference proceedings.

McLaughlin: No, it isn't. The material, all the minutes, of the Institute have become scattered through the years.

Baum: They have!

McLaughlin: Yes, all of the local office material has been scattered.

During the war, or as our part of the World War was ending, our chairman was Admiral Greenslade [Vice Admiral John W. Greenslade, USN, (retired)]. He and his aide were tremendously interested in the educational potentials of the Institute of Pacific Relations and took a great interest in the whole situation.

Dr. Eugene Staley Becomes Chairman of San Francisco Office, 1945

You see, I've skipped from '36 now to '45. Not quite '45. Well, it was. Because during the time of the conference in regard to the United Nations here in San Francisco in '45, Admiral Greenslade knew that the scholars that were secretaries of a great many of the committees were men who had worked very closely with the Institute of Pacific Relations. Sometimes internationally. Sometimes they were men from other countries and sometimes they were from America.

And he wanted a dinner for these men here in San Francisco in order to discuss the evolution that he would like to see taking place in the Institute of Pacific Relations as an educational organization. That dinner was finally held here at my house, where we had

McLaughlin: some of the most interesting men in the conference. As I say, all of these men were really secretaries of the various committees of the conference to form the United Nations charter. We'd had contacts with some of them. And of course part of the work that James Shotwell had done in his group that had worked in New York for years was on evolving the necessary basis for a United Nations.

One of our businessmen said to us the next day, after that dinner, "I think there's a man there, Dr. Eugene Staley, who should really come to California and be secretary here of the Institute of Pacific Relations."

The secretary that we had had in the office of the Institute here was half Japanese [John H. Oakie], raised in this community, and a very fine person, but of course after we got into war he had to leave us and was, really, farming in Grass Valley.

Baum: So the Japanese evacuation was very close to your office, wasn't it?

McLaughlin: On a subsistence farm up near Grass Valley all through the war, but with a guarantee, that satisfied the army, from Dr. Wilbur, Chester Rowell, Dr. Sproul, and similar people in this community.

Baum: A guarantee that he was not dangerous?

McLaughlin: This businessman was so much interested in Dr. Staley that within a week he had arranged for him to give half time to the Institute of Pacific Relations and half time to Stanford University and had found him a house at Stanford and had made arrangements about the salary. As Dr. Wilbur said about Dr. Staley, "He was the most distinguished scholar at that time in the area of the development of the nations, or countries, or colonies, where there were people with a very low standard of living--underdeveloped countries."

He was a scholar recognized by scholars every place and proceeded to give great dignity to the program that he evolved for the Institute of Pacific Relations here.

Baum: Was he paid by local funds, or did his money come through New York?

McLaughlin: Half of the salary--Stanford paid half of his time, and, no, we had to raise the money here. But this man also went out and got the promises for enough money to see that a scholar of this kind could be here.

Dr. Staley was the kind of person that gave us eight hours and gave Stanford eight hours a day. I've never seen such a worker or a man with a greater knowledge of organization than he had. Nor of greater interest.

He had worked with Carter in various ways and had complete confidence in him and would not take on the coloring of the local people in regard to the New York office.

Admiral Greenslade had stimulated so much interest in the question of international education that Lynn White, who was then president of Mills, and various people, had discussed the problem of institutes like the Institute of Pacific Relations on the various areas of the world.

We had a national meeting of the Institute of Pacific Relations in San Diego. This was in, I think, '47 and discussed this question of other institutes. Carter was out here and was very, very difficult, and utterly opposed to this idea. He went back and he wrote what the surface would seem to the average person to be a summary of that conference with just enough twist in every sentence or two that it wasn't the truth. Poor Dr. Staley read that and just walked the floor because he had to realize that Carter was a man who, with his tremendous sense of power was capable of using any methods to get his way. Dr. Staley was the only person I've ever known that took hold of Carter's efforts of this kind and sat down and untwisted it.

Then he went over to Dr. Sproul, who was then international chairman, and presented this to him. He gave us all the time we needed and in the end said, "Now, don't expect any heads on silver salvers, but we'll see that this is attended to."

Decision to Cut Ties With New York Office

McLaughlin: From this time on there was a feeling among a great many people that the thing to do was to really end our connection with the International Institute of Pacific Relations and start in working on a broader base. We'd never been able to have more than 450 paying members. Now, our influence was not limited to those people, because there were so many people working with us, so many scholars in colleges or in schools, or people worthwhile in the community that came to us in various ways. But we couldn't get an institute just of the Pacific financed.

Baum: When you say you were limited to 450 paying members, that's how many were interested enough in the Pacific area?

McLaughlin: Locally.

Baum: Interested enough to pay to belong.

McLaughlin: Yes. Local people. And this couldn't meet the necessities. People like Mr. Alexander really subsidized the office.

But there was fine work to be done and you couldn't keep a man like Dr. Staley just with 450 members, though he did some remarkable things at this time in the way of conferences in regard to atomic energy. We had some of the best conferences on that that I can imagine. And the very finest, the whole range of the finest scholars in regard to atomic energy.

So we had a meeting of those people that still belonged to the Institute of Pacific Relations. A good many people had resigned because of disagreement with the New York office and their leftist tendencies and their lack of decent, courteous understanding of this area. They continued to have some conferences. They went out to India--the Institute of Pacific Relations did.

McLaughlin: They had some fine people. That was when Harold Fisher came into the Institute. Dean _____ [name not clear] went out to India. Carl Spaeth of the Law Library at Stanford went. And they came back absolutely dedicated to increasing their interest and work with India, and kept on with the Institute of Pacific Relations. In the meantime the World Affairs Council was started.

Now, there has to be a summary of a thing like this: why did we have these difficulties and why did the Institute of Pacific Relations have difficulties with the public. To sum it up quickly, you can say that it became a staff-run institution, that staff absolutely headed and controlled by Edward Carter. He gave the opportunity to the staff to really go fully leftist if they so chose. I don't mean to say that, for instance, anybody like Fred Field from the beginning was a Communist. At first he was definitely to the left, with intellectual disdain for the people who didn't agree with him.

Dr. Wilbur said something about him that was very wise. He said, "Fred Field's great difficulty is, with that magnificent mind, he never had any of the disciplines of working for a degree, so never he had the disciplines of a faculty."

And I think this really was a good description of him when I first knew him.

Baum: Didn't Frederick Field have a college degree?

McLaughlin: Well, he didn't have anything after his B.A.

Baum: He was one of the Marshall Field family, wasn't he?

McLaughlin: No, his mother was a Vanderbilt. He was Frederick V. Field.

Baum: Wasn't he in the Marshall Field family?

McLaughlin: No. His father was just a, oh, I don't know. Well, I mean he belonged to the New York group.

McLaughlin: The secretaries, really, I think, ran away with the organization. And with a great deal of the publications, too, I think.

Baum: Here in San Francisco didn't the lay members have considerable influence?

McLaughlin: The San Francisco office was run here by the San Francisco people. And even when the Institute of Pacific Relations got into real difficulties--and Owen Lattimore and the rest of them were really being persecuted--the people in our office were never questioned by the FBI or anybody else. We were all interviewed by them. But when they wanted to see some of the files that I had here I just told them that files were here in my attic and whenever they had anybody here that wanted to see them, why they'd just let us know and there'd be somebody here to let them in and they could sit down and study them.

When the people came--I found them here and saw them before they left and they said, "Well, there's nothing here that we haven't seen in the files in the east. We never had any question about this office anyway."

But, we had constant difficulty with them and we had deep senses of disagreeing with a great many things that they did.

Baum: The New York office?

McLaughlin: Yes. I think really there's only one way to handle this thing, and just say it revolved around Mr. Carter, who gave the impression of being a really very fine intellect and a remarkably fine person. But, he had this great will to power and a great ability in handling the people that were necessary for the Institute. I'm sure that a great many of the developed scholars were ready to tolerate him because of the things that he could accomplish.

You never could talk to Dr. Wilbur about him at all. Dr. Wilbur was one of those people, when he once made up his mind about anybody, you could't penetrate. He simply said, "This man can get money and can handle the scholars and the businessmen in a way that no one else

McLaughlin: does." And Dr. Wilbur was chairman of the Institute--he took the chairmanship and dropped it several times when he was busy--but I think he was chairman when he died. There was a period there when he was chairman. And he felt that the accomplishments under Carter were such that he did not care to listen to his critics.

Owen Lattimore

People probably want to know why they seized Owen Lattimore. I have heard the gossip about that. The group in Congress had not made up their minds whether they would take Owen Lattimore, whom they would take.

Owen Lattimore was a man who also had not had the discipline of a faculty. Practically, he was raised and educated in China by his parents who were educational missionaries. He had a great talent for languages and picked up and knew Chinese. He was one of the few people, when Manchuria became one of the areas that was discussed, that knew the various languages of the people in that area.

He had picked up these languages sitting just around the fire with the average person in that community in a nomad expedition when he was out. But, you see, knowing the languages and having these great facilities, he was the one person that could be seized upon to write books such as Manchuria, Cradle of Conflict, and such things.

He was in charge of OWI here in San Francisco during the war and had from the people that worked with him complete devotion and complete admiration. His wife is the most delightful, little freckle-faced person, with a very good mind and there was great mutual devotion between them. She wrote rather well, too, and could laughingly tell the stories about when she had to run a house

McLaughlin: here in San Francisco and her husband was head of OWI and could get no help and he was accustomed to thinking of the area of a house being handled by a Number One Chinese, for instance.

He telephoned home to her one day and said he was bringing somebody home to dinner. And she said that it was really very hard for her to contain herself when she found out that it was the Queen of England's brother. (Laughter) And it was a little hard on him because whenever she got up to wait on the table he felt he had to stand up too. (Laughter) She made an awfully funny story of it. Well!

As I say, he had the devotion of the people he knew very well. I didn't know him well, so I didn't think my opinion has very much to do with it. His writings at that time certainly didn't make a communist of me and some of them were exceedingly interesting. I presume he knew the oriental's background of culture well enough to know people in, for instance, Outer Mongolia; even his late books on this subject would lead you to realize that we knew the step from their method of education, political and economic life that would easily lead them into something like communism. In writing in that fashion he may have gotten a reputation of some kind so that the era that we were going through would seize on him.

Philip Jessup

This involved some exceedingly fine people. Philip Jessup was one of the finest individuals that I've ever known in my whole life. He was deeply involved in the Institute of Pacific Relations and I think a follower of Carter. Philip Jessup was professor of international law at Yale and he was one of the people that was really dragged terribly at that time. But both he and his wife were remarkably fine people. And

McLaughlin: of course, Philip Jessup had not one chance of accepting communism because his intellect was too fine and intelligent to accept anything of that sort.

It was a bitter time, a very bitter time for those people. It was during that time, probably, that Fred Field became so completely irritated and unhappy that he really turned completely toward Communism. I presume he still is. His later life would seem to prove. The last I knew, he was living in Mexico because he couldn't come back to the United States, or he didn't want to come back to the United States.

Edward Carter

There were a fringe of people in the Institute of Pacific Relations that were tremendously interested in the experiment in Russia.

I've always summed up Carter in my own mind in the way that I once explained to Mr. Rowell and he said, "Well, it's a good Freudian explanation."

Carter was the son of a clergyman in a small New England town where the clergyman and his family had to meet social and financial obligations for which they were not provided. He went to Harvard, I presume on scholarships. Just exactly what he did after he graduated, I don't know, but he ended by being the YM secretary out in India. He, of course, was the man who headed up the YM activities in France in the First World War. Something he did made the YM terrifically unpopular and made the Salvation Army very popular.

However that seemed to have been forgotten by the time I met him. His wife was an exceedingly fine person, who unfortunately never questioned. She was a Dana, of the well-known family of Danas in New York, the newspaper people. Her sister was the remarkable Ruth Draper, a lovely, a fine person.

McLaughlin: In summary, I think Carter's attitude toward leftism was that the scars of life had been such that he took great pleasure in being very successful in getting money from capitalists, had great pleasure in out thinking capitalistic society, and really had envisioned, I think, that in a successful Rissia there would have been a place for [can't hear] that is going rather far. But I think my greatest criticism of him would be that he sacrificed the organization to these intellectual interests of his.

Accomplishments of the Institute of Pacific Relations

There is no doubt that the Institute of Pacific Relations developed and trained a great many people that the United States needed desperately during the Second World War, when they were out in the Pacific so much. These people were fine people and trustworthy people. They started a movement that was the basis of a broader and a finer understanding. They brought in tremendously fine people from all of this area. And these people were able to understand America much better because of their contacts to the Institute of Pacific Relations.

Some of these people were truly magnificent. There was a Chinese that I haven't yet even mentioned, Chang Po ling. He was the president of the University of Nankai in Nanking. His family started this college with the determination that it would be possible to rescue the fine things of China's background and work out a method by which they could take the scientific discoveries that had been evolved by the leading Western nations, and through a process of education make a new China. He was a man of profound spiritual and mental grace. This was the sort of person who impressed everyone.

I'll never forget the first time I had met him was when he landed in San Francisco and I had to see him through customs, in which he was delayed. I put him in my car to be taken some

McLaughlin: had to see him through customs, in which he was delayed. I put him in my car to be taken someplace and I was looking around for a taxi and found myself surrounded by the toughest looking taxi men I'd ever seen. "Lady, who's that man?"

And I said, "You mean that Chinese?"

And they said, "Yes."

And I said, "Why do you ask?"

"We've never seen anything like him. Apparently he's a very <u>great</u> person."

Well, anybody would recognize that in Chang Po ling. He had a brother P.C. Chang who was terribly clever.

As I say, in all of this there was a possibility of fellowship across the Pacific. I'm not saying that anybody could have stopped the Japanese agression. But, it made it possible that as soon as the war was over that these people could be gathered up again and get together and discuss their common problems and the problems of the world.

It was a great institution that because of some weaknesses of the personnel could be preyed upon by people like McCarran and McCarthy. And when once a reputation of decency is lost, it's very difficult.

The saddest part of the situation was not the Lattimores, not a man like Owen Lattimore, or the other scholars that had worked with the Institute of Pacific Relations, even a man that was attacked as viciously as Philip Jessup, it made no difference in his own mind and his reputation as a scholar--but Carter had a way of taking up some of these very brilliant people before they had taken the steps which give the professional background for the average college and getting them to work in the Institute. And those were the people that suffered so during these attacks.

There was one man, an exceedingly fine person who was at that time supporting his family in Berkeley by doing gardening. [T.A. Bisson] He was accused of being a Communist; he was

McLaughlin: accused of all sorts of things. The tragedy was great because his wife's father had been shot by the Communists in China. And he said to me, "You know, if I had my Ph.D., this couldn't have happened to me."

It was the tragedies of using people that Carter had that was one of the hardest things for me, one of the things I've never forgiven. He used people, with no sense of responsibility, and you just can't do that.

Baum: Would this have been a tragedy to these young people if they had not been caught in this Congressional investigation?

McLaughlin: Oh! These people should have gone on with their scholarship. They took such a long time to reconstruct themselves.

Baum: He took them too soon.

McLaughlin: He took them. He took them and used them because they were brilliant and interesting.

Baum: It would sound, I'm sure, like a good opportunity to them at the time.

McLaughlin: At the time! Oh, they had a lovely time and enjoyed it! But it prevented their development in their own profession because they were natural teachers, or writers. And you have to have the stars of your trade.

Some of the finest people I've ever known have not been scholars, have not had their Ph.D.

There's another side to it, too. Some of these young people to whom he gave a chance to write are eternally grateful. I have one friend, a woman, who said he gave her her first chance. [Virgina Thompson Adloff] She had her Ph.D. She had left Columbia and she had worked in OWI here in San Francisco during the war. And she'd been with the State Department. But what she was really trained for was research work and writing. Now, she said, she has a great group of books on the affairs of the Pacific and also she's a specialist on French Africa. And she said her first start in her own profession, Carter gave

McLaughlin: her the chance to write in the Institute of Pacific Relations. And she's eternally grateful.

Baum: So, I gather there's considerable mixed feeling about Carter.

McLaughlin: Very mixed feeling. Either you adored him or finally, when you found out he had clay feet, why you just were sorry that anybody with so many fine qualities would, in the end use people. That's what he did. I hate to see people used.

Baum: Would you feel that his holding down of the San Francisco office was due to his personal desire to be the all-powerful person, or was it philosophical?

McLaughlin: His attitude to the San Francisco office was due to the fact that he just didn't want it to develop here, and he wasn't really interested in the type of thing, being close to the average person, that we were.

Baum: Oh, I see, he wanted to do more research and writing, but not this education kind of work?

McLaughlin: He didn't want an office that he wasn't controlling every minute.

Baum: You had mentioned to me previously that the Institute also did quite a bit toward trying to build up the libraries of the universities on the Pacific coast.

McLaughlin: The libraries were one of the things that we worked awfully hard on. We finally decided that in an area like this--this was before the Second World War--that in an area like this there should be a microfilm catalogue of everything on the Pacific in this Bay area.

Baum: Everything available in any institution.

McLaughlin: In any institution in this Bay area.

Baum: So a scholar would know where to go.

McLaughlin: Where he'd go and get these things. Or the person just beginning to develop themselves in regard to research of this sort. Well, Dr. Wilbur

McLaughlin: did not believe in it and we had a very poor librarian at Berkeley. Mills did believe in it but we didn't get anyplace on that. We did work awfully hard on the libraries, no doubt.

I think what I said to you was that, probably, when we started, there was at the University of California, no Oriental department, there was no department of the Pacific peoples. The man who had been really a very, very great person was Dr. E.E. Williams, who had written some fine books on China. He had gone with the Chinese delegation to Versailles for the treaty. He came away from there most unhappy with the way the Chinese were treated.

Then he had retired. There was nobody carrying on a department in regard to the Pacific at Berkeley. Though there had been over the years, just one or two people. There was even money. The amount I remember so well, $5,000 a year (Laughter) for books for the library. It wasn't even spent. It had come from a bequest. There was nothing being done about it.

But the stimulus of this movement about the scholarship and the scholars interested in the research had its reverbations. And I think one of the concrete examples of the difference between '27, when we started, and the last years--of course there was the Second World War and all of the consequences--but people realized that they must back the scholars with proper materials on the Pacific. So we have now one wing of the library at Berkeley devoted to the Pacific area.

Dr. Brown told me himself that his first trip after the peace after the Second World War, he asked for $10,000 for books. And Dr. Sproul said, "You didn't ask for enough."

There were, as I say, no materials in '27, no materials properly cared for at Berkeley. The thing that was most occasionally remarked upon was a very fine library that had come over after the Boxer rebellion and had been left uncared for in the basement of the library. And the girls all said, "Oh, those awful boxes that snag our stockings." (Laughter)

McLaughlin: We found they were being eaten up by bugs. We couldn't get anybody at Berkeley to listen to us. Dr. Alsberg was then at Stanford and he knew somebody that he could whisper to and the books were rescued and fumigated and so forth.

But I'm not claiming that the Institute changed the whole attitude toward knowledge on the Pacific. They were prepared to help people that were ready to develop and they did develop some fine scholars, or serve as stimuli to fine scholars. But they formed a group basis on which people could work and they had people prepared in various fields that were really a great help during the war.

But I think I use the question of the library on the Pacific as proof of some of the things that Sproul did while he was there, that library, which is famous, had, I think, his understanding in the background.

Baum: And he was active in the Institute of Pacific Relations?

McLaughlin: Oh, yes. He was chairman of the United States group for a while.

Baum: He was always so busy. I don't see how he managed that.

McLaughlin: He couldn't do very much for it except it opened horizons that he could stimulate other people.

Formation of the World Affairs Council, 1947

Baum: Dr. Staley, I have a note, left to become a full-time professor at Stanford in 1949. Was it Howard Cook that came in as executive director?

McLaughlin: Howard Cook came on. The World Affairs Council was founded in '47 and we dropped out of the Institute of Pacific Relations at that time.

McLaughlin: The San Francisco office of the Institute was ended, though the Institute itself went on for a great many years.

Baum: So after 1947, the San Francisco office became the World Affairs Council.

McLaughlin: The San Francisco office of the Institute was dropped and the World Affairs Council, with the broader base of the problems of the whole world, was started by Dr. Staley. And the president was Monroe Deutsch.

Baum: So, Howard Cook was, then World Affairs Council...?

McLaughlin: Oh, yes, Howard Cook was on the World Affairs Council.

Dr. Greenslade had been retired by this time and had left the community; and Monroe Deutsch was the chairman of the World Affairs Council. The World Affairs Council went on--it was recognized, as I say, that a broader base was necessary.

The Institute of Pacific Relations did continue. As I say, they had a conference in India. I think in fact, I'm not sure but that they had two. And they kept up their publications for a long time. Finally their financial backing in New York was withdrawn because of the difficulties with the Communists. The Rockefeller money, for instance, was taken away from them.

Baum: I'd heard somewhere that there was a Cleveland World Affairs Council.

McLaughlin: There was a World Affairs Council in Cleveland before there was one here.

Baum: And then this idea was taken up here.

McLaughlin: Mrs. Staley had worked in the Cleveland World Affairs Council so they knew about it.

But the method that Dr. Staley used--well, there has to be, I suppose a standard method. It's natural when you're handling the problems of the world, especially in times like this.

McLaughlin: But Dr. Staley had worked out the same organization for a much smaller group in the Institute of Pacific Relations. But intellectually just as fine as could be, and this was just expanded into a World Affairs Council.

Baum: Have you been as active in the World Affairs Council as you had been in the Institute of Pacific Relations?

McLaughlin: Oh, yes.

Baum: I wonder if we ought to spend a session on the World Affairs Council, then.

McLaughlin: I don't think this is as necessary as anything that's been as controversial as the Institute.

Baum: Yes, I realize that the Institute of Pacific Relations is a special subject.

Mrs. McLaughlin receiving an L.L.D. from President C. Easton Rothwell, Mills College, 1962

Mrs. McLaughlin and her sister, Miss Henrietta Moffat, Lake Tahoe, 1948

Mrs. Helene Brewer, the interviewer, and Mrs. McLaughlin, 1965

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HENRY MOFFAT

Henry Moffat was born in Rhode Island, between Newport and Providence, on September 14, 1840, and died January 24, 1913. His father was William Henry Moffat. It is my belief that he was a horse-trader. There was a family of ten children, of whom my father was the youngest, and the only one born in America. There was one other brother, twenty years older than he -- Eugene Moffat --. My understanding is that the eldest and the youngest were these two sons. I know only of the following sisters:

Elizabeth, who married Peter McCann here in San Francisco.
Ann, who married a man by the name of Ladd.
_____ married Andrew Schrader Floberg (a jeweler in Sacramento).

I would judge that my father, being the youngest, and his mother dying when he was born, or near that time, did not have the chance that the older sons may have had for an education. He apparently supported himself and helped with the family from the time he was a very small boy. He came to California when he was 17 years of age, and went to work for Andrew Schrader very shortly after that. Andrew Schrader was a prosperous wholesale butcher. In the campaign when Lincoln ran for the second time, and his opponent was General McClelland, of Civil War fame, my father, who was an ardent Democrat, raised the Democratic flag on Mr. Schrader's slaughter-house. Mr. Schrader, being a Republican, discharged him. Shortly thereafter my father and his brother Eugene formed a partnership as wholesale butchers, -- E. and H. Moffat. In 1871, on the anniversary of the battle of Bull Run, ten years after the Battle of Bull Run, he was married to Adrienne Green Swett. There were four children -- the eldest, Elizabeth, who married Arthur Sharp, with one daughter, Adrienne, now Mrs. Frank Fuller; one son, W. H. Moffat, daughters Henrietta Moffat, and Emma (myself). I was born in 1880, and until I was three years old we lived in Butchertown, just over the spot where the Southern Pacific tunnel goes through the Sisters Hill. Then we moved to Bryant and Center Streets, and in 1893 we moved to 1239 Franklin Street, and after the earthquake to Washington Street.

After my mother's death, in 1912, we moved to 3501 Clay Street, where my father died.

I have never known my father's mother's name. The family were Roman Catholics, which religion he gave up when he married my mother. I don't know what part of Ireland they came from.

My understanding is that my mother's father, Ebenezer Swett, was born in 1800, and came from, I think, Portland, Maine. He lived in Brunswick, where he was a wholesale butcher. Her grandmother, Elizabeth Carvill, was a niece of his first wife. She came to California with four of her children -- John, Ebenezer and the twins. Adrianna, my mother, and Mary were living at Bath, Maine, with one of Elizabeth's sisters by the name of Marsten. They came to California in 1864.

Ebenezer Swett, my grandfather, died in 1880, having been cared for in the last years of his life by my mother's half-brother, Emory, who was the only one of the 16 children who stayed in Brunswick? (Two of the other half-brothers, one of whom was Jesse, came to California in 1848, but went home for a short time, returning to California for more gold, and died very quickly in one of the epidemics so prevalent at that time.

Adrienna died in May 1912.

Dictated by Mrs. McLaughlin
over telephone 9/24/'46

Send 2 copies to
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c/o H. Hoffat Co.
Third & Arthur Ave.
San Francisco, 24, Calif.

INSERTION -- TO BE PUT INTO THE
LIFE OF HENRY MOFFAT
REFERS TO MR. TYLER

As an illustration of the sort of activity in which Henry Moffat was very effective -- in 1893-94 the big Packers of Chicago invaded this territory, expecting to monopolize it, as they had monopolized the Packing Business in the rest of the United States. Mr. Moffat organized the retail butchers into an association which pledged itself not to trade with the big Packers; and he organized the producers of California not to sell to them. This arrangement, together with the fact that Henry Miller refused, after a short experiment, to cooperate with them, saved all of the Independents from being squeezed out by the monopolistic tendencies of the Chicago Packers, who later were disciplined by the Government.

This naturally was in the line of self-interest, but it also greatly benefitted the rest of the people in the industry, and also the public.

Feb. 18, '44
By Mrs. McLoughlin

Dr. Alfred McLaughlin
1871-1908

Alfred McLaughlin was born in Sonoma, Sonoma County, California, May 28, 1871. His mother was Mary Shattuck Spencer, widow of Charles Spencer. She was the daughter of David Olcott Shattuck. He was born in Connecticut, of English parentage, worked as a carpenter and studied to be a Minister and was ordained in the Methodist Church. He migrated to North Carolina and while pursuing his profession as a Minister, met and married a Miss Carrol whose family were of the famous Carrol family of North Carolina. Shortly after the birth of their second son (they had ten children in all), they started West through the Allegheny mountains via Cumberland Gap. They settled in Kentucky where Mr. Shattuck studied law, giving up the Ministry to practice. Later they migrated to Tennessee where he practiced law and was a judge, then on to Missouri and finally Louisiana. Here he was a judge, president of a small college, and also had a plantation on which his children grew up. At the first news of the gold excitement in California, he started with his two eldest sons, two slaves and came to California via the Nicaragua route. He started practicing law in California, sent for his family whom he settled on a ranch in Sonoma, and became First Federal Judge of California, sitting in San Francisco. During the Civil War he refused to take the oath of allegiance and went to Mexico with his wife, returning at the end of the war to live with his daughter Mary Spencer, then a widow with six children. Shortly after this time, Mrs. Spencer married Moses Alfred McLaughlin. There were two children, Alfred and Molly. The latter died and there was, after a period of unhappiness, a divorce. Alfred, until he was 18, was with his mother and grandfather, living on the vineyard in Sonoma.

Little was known by anybody of Moses Alfred McLaughlin. He had served in the Mexican War and fought under Kearny in California in the Battle of Tehon. He was a man who had an unusually brillant education for that time, being an accomplished linguist, speaking and writing French, Italian, German, and Spanish. Dr. McLaughlin had always felt that his father of Scotch-Irish ancestry had been educated for a Priest, had lived for a time in Canada, but had left the Novitiate to follow the pioneers to California. After his divorce from his wife Mary, he came to San Francisco and studied medicine, practicing in San Francisco until the time of his death.

Alfred McLaughlin received his formal education in the public schools of Sonoma, graduating from the high school there. His real education he got from his grandfather who lived to a great age and was always the dominant figure in the family household. His theory of bringing up boys included a certain number of hours of work each day on the farm. The ordinary school work being supplemented by the intellectual contact with his very well-trained mind, which soon led his grand-children to a constant use of his exceptionally fine library. The family recreation was in the hands of Mrs. Spencer who maintained the ideal of a typical Southern plantation home, with all the emphasis on hospitality that such a home means. She laid great emphasis on healthy home recreation combined with a great deal of music. This ideal family life was wrecked when agricultural pests destroyed the productivity of the farm which occurred about the time Alfred McLaughlin graduated from high school.

He came to San Francisco and worked for three years in the License Collector's office in order to earn money to put himself through medical college. Just as he was prepared to use it for this purpose, the bank became bankrupt and swept his savings away. However, his father finally decided to help him and he entered Toland Medical College in the class of 1896. (This college was absorbed by the University of California.) His college years were all very difficult and hampered by the lack of money. However, he graduated among the four highest and became an Interne at the City & County Hospital of San Francisco. He started to practice medicine in the community where his father had been for years, called here Butchertown, the packing house district of the city. His practice spread from here all through the southern end of San Francisco, including the great region of the workingmen's homes and the Italian vegetable garden district. He also established offices in the main part of San Francisco and in time his practice spread all over the peninsula. He was largely known as a surgeon but that was due to the fact of having a very large practice, among the type of people who never call a physician in except at a time of great emergency. He was really exceptionally able in diagnosis. What really distinguished his practice was the fact that he gave to a very simple and sordid community the sort of medical care that is usually only given to the very rich or to the very poor, namely in the colleges. In his community he did health work that was seldom thought of during his time. He had so large a practice that he was obliged to do a great deal of preventive medicine and as much as a single man could, gave constant lessons in health education. For instance, in the obstetrical work he developed a nurse who gave prenatal instructions, gave nursing care for ten days after the birth of the child, and feeding education to the mother for the child, for any length of time desired. His group of workers, including nurses and assistant physicians and a technician who did laboratory and X-ray work, were all trained to do all in their power to keep the community well. This was the period in medicine when specialists began to be accepted generally by the community. Dr. McLaughlin's theory was that a specialist handling a referred case could not often make a satisfactory diagnosis because of lack of intimacy with the human equation and he felt that a family physician who kept himself abreast of all the new practices, could in the end accomplish more with the average person. He proved his theory in his neighborhood and killed himself in the process. He was a curious anomaly; a prescieuse in personal habits in a most pitiful and sordid community, a father confessor in fact. He contracted typhoid in the spring of 1905 not many months after his marriage which occurred in October, 1904. He went back to work too soon after the typhoid and in the spring of 1906, it was discovered that he had tuberculosis. It was in the incipient state and was the sort that was quite easily curable; in fact he handled a great many cases much more advanced and cured them. The earthquake came along, however, and swept away his savings which gave him an excuse to go back and work himself to death. He really felt that he was a menace to the people around him; besides he really did not care to live if he had to limit his activities. He died June 23, 1908 after having insisted upon meeting life full of hard work with a debonair spirit throughout the years of his illness which included more and more frequent breakdowns. He died defying Fate, declaring that he had had a most satisfactory life, including a perfect boyhood, a hard-working adolescence and a gloriously interesting manhood full of definite achievements.

He left one child, Jean, born October 5, 1905.

occupations, but has made farming his principal business. He has been prominently identified with all the interests of the county, and is always ready and willing to do anything that will tend to advance the interests of the county of his choice. Married Miss Margaret Swift July, 1851. Rachel J., widow of J. R. Snyder, and Granville C. P. are the names of his living children.

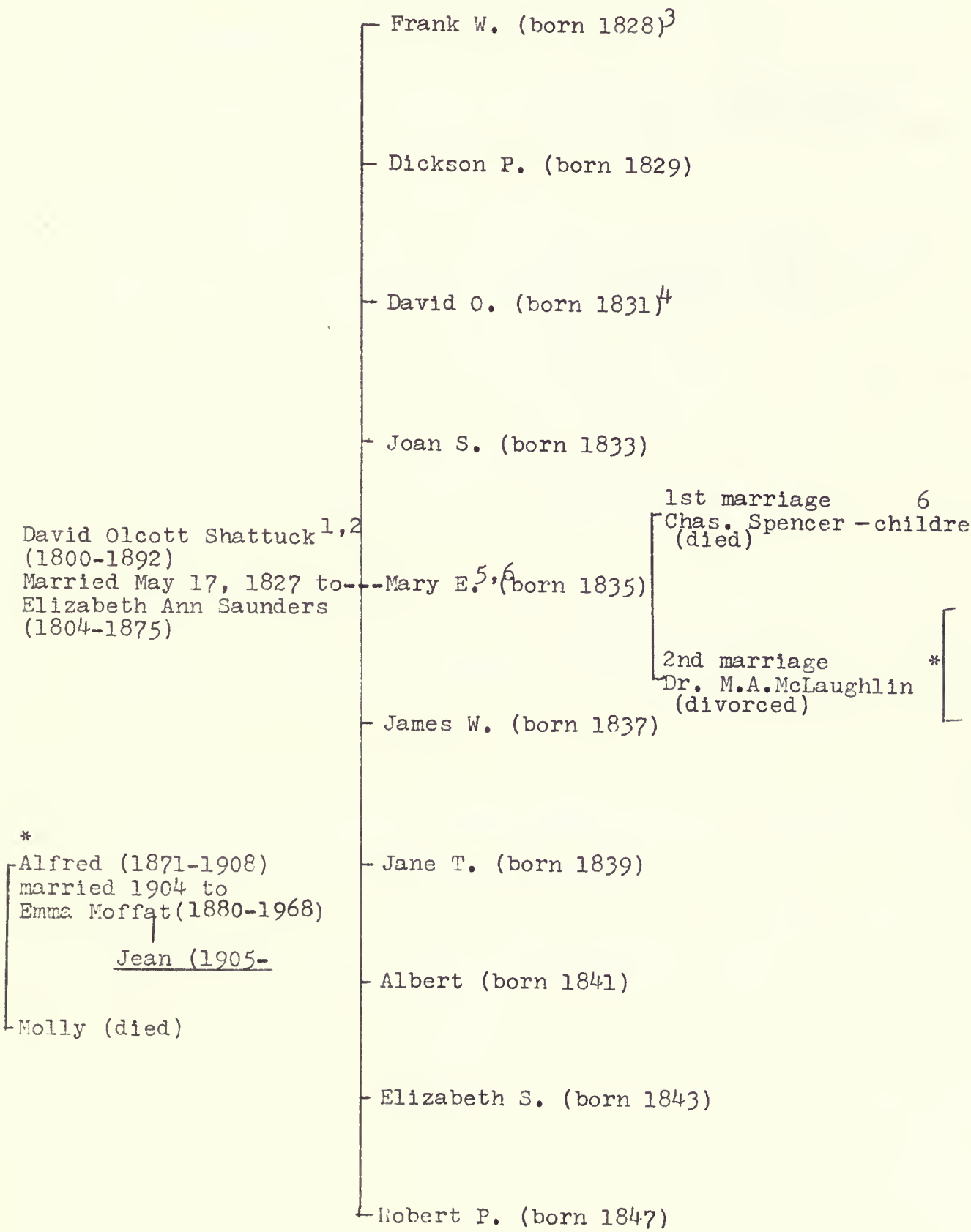
Shattuck, David Olcott. Whose portrait appears in this work, is a native of Colchester, New London county, Connecticut, born March 21, 1800. Here he received a common school education. In 1820 he proceeded to South Carolina, where he found employment for a short time on the canal above Columbia. After drifting about for some time, he found his way into North Carolina and in the Spring of 1821 he taught one term of school in Mecklenburg county, when he proceeded to Chatham county and there engaged in school teaching until 1823, and while here he was licensed to preach in the Methodist Episcopal church. He then returned to the place of his birth and taught school one term. During this time his name had been proposed to the Virginia Conference and accepted, and he was appointed to the Hanover Circuit in Virginia, which position he held three years. He married in Wake county, North Carolina, on May 7, 1827, Miss Elizabeth Ann Saunders, at which time he was engaged in teaching school in Johnson county. Late in the year he moved to Duplin county, North Carolina, and followed his former occupation until 1829. In December of this year he emigrated to Haywood county, in the Western District of Tennessee. Here he was admitted to the Bar and practiced his profession in Brownsville for four years. In 1833 he took up his residence in Carrolton, Carroll county, Mississippi, where he practiced law until 1837, when he was elected District Judge of the Seventh Judicial District. In 1841, while still officiating as Judge, he was nominated by the Whig party for Governor. The all-important question was at that time "Shall the State pay its bonds?" The Whig party said *yes* in decided terms, while the Democracy said *no* emphatically. The Democrats were successful, however, and elected their man, Mr. Shattuck being defeated by only two thousand votes in the State. He then resumed the practice of law until 1843, when he was elected Professor of law in the Centennary College at Brandon, Rankin county, Mississippi. After holding this position for one and one-half years, the Trustees found it necessary to remove the president, which they did, and elected Mr. Shattuck to fill the chair made vacant by the former president. On account of financial difficulties and a poor title, the college had to be abandoned. Soon after they purchased at auction the Louisiana State college buildings, which were afterwards known as the Centennary College of Louisiana. He resigned the position of president in 1849. Under his management the college was in a flourishing condition, and was entirely freed from debt, with two hundred students in attendance. Soon after his resignation, he took passage on a

*1879 or 1880 issue

schooner to Panama and from there on a sailing vessel to San Francisco, arriving in April, 1850. He immediately began practicing law in San Francisco, and in the Fall of 1850 was elected Judge of the Superior Court. At this time the business of the court was managed by three Judges, and Mr. Shattuck, believing this a useless expense, as one Judge could do all the its business, accordingly, in 1852, petitioned the Legislature that the same should be remodeled and one Judge perform the whole duty, which was accomplished, and he therefore resigned the Judgeship and practiced law. In 1854 he was elected Judge of the Superior Court, as remodeled, and discharged the duties of that office until 1857, when the act establishing said court was repealed upon Mr. Shattuck's petition. He again resumed his profession. In 1861 he was defeated on the Democratic ticket for Congress. In 1862 he came to this county and settled upon his estate in Sonoma valley (purchasing it in 1850), where he has since resided, with the exception of three years he spent in Mexico. Returning in 1867, he retired from business and political life. His wife, who died July 9, 1875, was born in Wake county, North Carolina, January 6, 1804. As is seen by the foregoing, Mr. Shattuck has lead a very active life, is an ornament to society and possesses those traits of character that are elevating and ennobling. He is now nearly eighty years of age, but remarkably well preserved. Mr. Shattuck claims the credit of never having sought a nomination for any office, from any Convention. That while in office he never received a gift from any person, "to blind his eyes withal," and that he has performed the duties of every office held by him with conscientious assiduity and fidelity. He reflects with pleasure upon the four months' campaign he made in 1841 in Mississippi against the repudiation of her debts, and justice and truth require him to say that while by the popular vote of that State a majority of two thousand were in favor of repudiation, yet the repudiation in the main was voted by those who had nothing to pay—all of the wealthy counties gave a majority for payment. Mr. Shattuck looks also with satisfaction to the conservative course taken by him in the various mobish excitements and Vigilance Committees of San Francisco; in saving Barden from violent death; in preventing a collision of forces in 1856, and in pouring oil upon the troubled waters generally to the extent of his powers. He looks with sadness upon his many errors, but they have taught him to view with charity the shortcomings of others. Their children are: Frank W., born February 14, 1828; Dickson P., born November 2, 1829; David O., born September 17, 1831; John S., born October 1, 1833; Mary E., born August 17, 1835; James W., born October 15, 1837; Jane T., born December 27, 1839; Albert, born November 17, 1841; Elizabeth S., born December 22, 1843; Robert P., born March 4, 1847.

Snyder, Jacob R. (deceased.) The subject of this sketch was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in the year 1812. During the memorable

Notes on descendants of David Olcott Shattuck
Partially compiled by his great-granddaughter, Mrs. Jean Doolittle.



1. President of Bible Society, 1854, San Francisco

2. From Louisiana History, Spring 1962, Vol. III, No. 2

   a. Louisiana Planter's trip to Gold Rush. Small biography in notes on David Olcott Shattuck, also bibliography.
   b. Memorials of Descendants of William Shattuck. pp.289-290. (Boston 1855)

3. First county judge - Sonoma County

4. Born in Tennessee, 1831. At 15 moved to Mississippi, then to Louisiana. 1849 - to California via Panama - arrived in S.F. April 1850 with father and two brothers. Spent some time working at Custom House, then farmed in Sonoma County. 1871 - Bachelor Valley in Lake County.

5. Came to California after her father and brothers came. Was shipwrecked enroute off the coast of Mexico.

6. Shown in San Francisco Directory:
   Charles Spencer in Shattuck firm 1858, '59, '60
   Charles Spencer and Riechert 1860-1866

Other References:

Robert Greenwood's California Imprints, 1833-62. No. 764

California Historical Society Quarterly, Vol. IX, 1930, p. 29

" Vol. X, 1931

" Vol. XV

California Historical Society Quarterly, Vol. XVI, 1937, p. 182
From S. F. Annals. Cases tried by Judge Shattuck.

California Historical Society Quarterly, Vol. XVII

" Vol. XXXIV, 1955

Celeste Murphy, The Peoples of the Pueblo, p. 249

JUDGE DAVID OLCOTT SHATTUCK

Judge David Olcott Shattuck died at his home in Sonoma township Thursday afternoon, aged 92 years.

Judge Shattuck was a native of New London, Connecticut. He was educated at the common schools there and when twenty years old went to South Carolina. After he went to North Carolina he engaged in teaching school. In a few years he removed to Tennessee and there began the study of law. In 1833 he was chosen district judge in Mississippi and in 1841 was an unsuccessful Whig candidate for governor there. He became president of the Centenary college, and Wesleyan university conferred the degree of L.L.D. on him.

Judge Shattuck came to California and in 1850 was elected superior judge in San Francisco. He was a candidate for Congress in 1861 but was not elected. For a time he was presiding elder of the M. E. church, South, of the Santa Rosa district. He was in Mexico engaged in cotton culture for a number of years, but since 1868 he has lived at his Sonoma farm. He was married and was the father of ten children, one of whom was the first county judge here, Judge Frank Shattuck. Sonoma county lost a sturdy pioneer when Judge D. O. Shattuck passed away.

From: The Santa Rosa Republican, August 19, 1892.

RECOLLECTIONS OF EMMA MOFFAT McLAUGHLIN

by Julia Sargent Breinig

If I were faced with making a choice of Emma's enviable characteristics as I knew her, I think I should say that the most outstanding was her loyalty to old friends and the warmth of her never decreasing affection for them during a lifetime that encompassed three generations.

In a way, it was an inherited loyalty. My grandfather, Bradley Sargent, owner of a cattle ranch in the Carmel Valley, and William Moffatt were not only business associates but very close friends. The two families were equally close. The Moffatt family always had a place in their house for the Sargent family when they came to San Francisco and they, in turn, made visits to the Sargent ranch where Emma and the other Moffatt children learned to ride under my mother's tuition. The bonds between the two families only grew closer as time went on. Emma loved to recall these visits in later years.

When my mother was first married and lived in San Francisco, the Moffatt home was more than a second home for her. She often told me that without her long, daily visits with Mrs. Moffatt and the children, when she was pregnant with me, she could not have endured the lonely hours while my father was at work. I think it was then that Emma's devotion to my mother was born and grew although my mother was twenty-five years the elder. My mother was gay and full of fun. She played piano well and sang like a bird and above all, had a remarkable rapport with children. I imagine that to a little six year old girl rather seriously and strictly brought up she was the object of some hero-worship. Looking back on later years they seemed to have had much in common; independent, afraid of nothing, nothing was impossible, there was nothing that could not be accomplished if one had the will to do it. They enjoyed each other tremendously. Emma's visits were always filled with laughter, they were both civic minded and I fancy Emma turned things upside down in San Francisco as my mother did in Monterey and with as much ardor and delight.

The friendship had a firm foundation to be sure but the truly remarkable thing to me is that it persisted with its original warmth and loyalty through three generations without any lessening. As my mother grew old, Emma's devotion and tenderness, if possible, increased. She visited her regularly, saw that her children and grand-children considered it a privilege to know my mother, was concerned about her well-being, and was the first to come to her in time of trouble. When my mother died she seemed to transfer the warmth of that rare friendship to me, my mother's daughter.

These events simply underline what I consider a rare sense of loyalty and a rare valuation of friendship. She had the same loyalty and warmth for Anita Doud, the daughter of one of Mr. Moffatt's associates and a good friend of his.

Fall - 1968

Julia Sargent Breinig

MISS ALICE GRIFFITH, FOUNDER OF THE TELEGRAPH HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

By Adelaide Griffith Cochrane

Alice Griffith was born in San Francisco, February 12, 1865. She was the seventh and last child of Millen and Jane Maria Lord Griffith. Millen Griffith came to California in 1849 on a sailing vessel, going around the Horn to San Francisco. Two months search for gold convinced him that his opportunity would be found in the great bay of San Francisco and not in the hills. Returning to San Francisco, he began plans for unloading the many ships entering the harbor from ports all over the world. No wharves or docks existed, so cargo was moved from ship to shore by lighters. In 1850, he built his first large lighter. "Thus began a career of industry, resourcefulness, and courage."

In 1853, he returned to New York to marry, bringing his young wife across the Isthmus of Panama, then by ship up the coast to his home in San Francisco. He and his family lived in a house on Rincon Hill until his death in 1896. The house was then torn down and the property was given to the city to be used as a park.

Captain Griffith owned a large fleet of tug boats, which became known as the "Red Stacks". These tug boats exist today in the bay. He also owned a fleet of steam whaling vessels, used in the North Pacific. This organization was called the North Pacific Whaling Company and was eventually bought by the Alaska Packing Corporation.

His four daughters were educated at home by a tutor until they were past the childhood stage. Then they were sent to a small school, which was known as "Miss West's". Miss Griffith insisted that she was uneducated, but there were few women who had the knowledge and intelligence she had.

Alice Griffith's career in the social world began after the death of her parents. In 1897, she and her great friend, Miss Elizabeth Ashe became very concerned about the health problems of the Italian immigrant families. It was at this time that they started the Telegraph Hill Medical Clinic, staffed with volunteer doctors. The fire and earthquake of 1906 greatly increased the problems and the clinic soon became both a medical clinic and a neighborhood center. Still the needs grew and out of the needs the Visiting Nurse Association developed, solely by the efforts of Miss Griffith and Miss Ashe. A library was installed in the Neighborhood Center. Individual counseling was added to the program to help with family problems. Group projects started because of needs, such as sewing classes, cooking classes, etc. The ideas came actually from the two women who saw the needs.

Until her death in 1959, Miss Griffith was actively interested in all facets of social work in San Francisco. She had the time and she had the wealth. But, the great thing is that she did all that she did, unselfishly and devotedly for her beloved city and its needy people.

Mrs. Adelaide Griffith Cochrane
(niece of Alice Griffith)

Mrs. Eric Cochrane
7 Tanglewood Road
Berkeley, California

September 14, 1969

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California League of Women Voters — Fact Sheet No. 1

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1911 - In November, 1911, after women of California were granted suffrage in October, the College Equal Suffrage League, one of the many women's organizations which had supported the suffrage amendment, became the California Civic League.

The California Civic League, with headquarters in San Francisco, organized Centers in Northern California. By 1916, 32 such Centers were functioning.

1919 - When the Federal Suffrage Amendment was passed by Congress in 1919, the idea of a National League of Women Voters was conceived by Carrie Chapman Catt, at the convention of the National American Women's Suffrage Association held at St. Louis in 1919. At the 1920 Victory Convention of the Suffrage Association, it dissolved as an organization, and the National League of Women Voters was organized.

In December 1919, Mrs. Catt, accompanied by Mrs. E. Jean Nelson Penfield, Miss Jessie Haver, Miss Marjorie Shuler, and Dr. Valeria Parker, visited California, as well as nine other states, urging ratification of the Suffrage Amendment and also acquainting the women of the nation with the new work to be undertaken by the League of Women Voters. A unit of the League of Women Voters was organized in Los Angeles at that time.

1921 - Under the leadership of Mrs. Frank G. Law, who was at that time its president, the California Civic League was resolved into the California Unit of the National League of Women Voters, in 1921. In 1922, the First Annual Convention of the California Civic League of Women Voters was held.

1925 - The name of the organization was changed in 1925 from California Civic League of Women Voters to the present name, California League of Women Voters. Since affiliation with the National League of Women Voters in 1922, the following members have served as State Presidents:

Presidents of California League of Women Voters

Mrs. Frank Gould Law, Oakland	1921 - 1922
Miss Marian Delany, San Francisco	1922 - 1925
Mrs. H. H. Koons, Los Angeles	1925 - 1927
Miss Alice Burr, San Francisco	1927 - 1929
Mrs. J. C. Whitman, San Mateo	1929 - 1931
Mrs. C. Shepard Barnum, Pasadena	1931 - 1933
Mrs. Paul Eliel, Berkeley	1933 - 1937
Mrs. Carl L. Voss, Salinas	1937 - 1938
Mrs. Warner Clark, San Francisco	1938 - 1941

M605603

(Feb., 1941)

San Francisco Center became the

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN FRANCISCO in 1922

SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF EDUCATION

HISTORY

1899 - Under the Charter adopted in 1899 it was provided that there would be four board members appointed by the Mayor; no confirmation by the voters required. These members were to serve full time and receive a full time compensation. The Superintendent was elected by the people.

1914 - The charter was amended to make the Superintendent also a member of the Board of Education, which would make a board of five members.

1914 - S.F. Chamber of Commerce conferred with Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Bureau of Education concerning a survey of our School System.

1915 - A representative from the U.S. Bureau of Education conferred with the S.F. Board of Education and was invited to do a survey of our schools.

At this time, the S.F. School Board was composed of four members appointed by the Mayor (no ratification) for a four year full time term at a salary of $3,000 per year. A fifth member was the elected Superintendent of Schools; the State Constitution had a provision that the School District must be under a County elected Superintendent (in S.F. the City and County are co-terminous).

There was no clear division of powers. The School District was a Department of the City. The Board of Education could not levy taxes for support of the schools. This power was delegated to the Board of Supervisors, to whom the Board of Education submitted its estimated budget each April. The Supervisors could amend the budget if they so chose. The Board of Education could not construct or repair school houses. This privilege was delegated to the Department of Public Works.

The Treasurer of the City and County and the proper accounting and auditing officers and the City Attorney were in effect ex-officio officers of the Board of Education. The internal organization consisted not only of those named but of certain standing committees appointed by the President of the Board. The business of the Board of Education was conducted by these committees. The Chairmen of these committees had unusual powers since they could transact business directly with supervisors, principals, and teachers, or take the initiative in recommending appointments quite independent of the Superintendent of Schools. Because of the dual system of administration which arose out of constitutional and charter provisions, the entire supervisory force and teaching staff were constantly in uncertainty as to whether they should regard the Superintendent and his deputies or the Board of Education and its committees as their immediate superiors.

1917 - P.P. Claxton, Chairman of the five person Commission began a survey at the request of the S.F. Board of Education. Claxton was at this time U.S. Commissioner of Education.

Page 2. History - Board of Education.

The recommendations of the Claxton Survey were as follows:

1. That the Board of Education be given full control over the educational, business, and financial affairs of the school system. Such a plan would make it possible to fix responsibility.

2. That the job of member of the Board of Education be made a part time job with no salary, as to be found in many other cities of comparable size. At this time the position was considered a full time job with a salary of $3,000 per year.

3. That the salary of the Superintendent be raised from $4,000 per year to a salary commensurate with Superintendents elsewhere who were receiving on the average of $9,500 per year.

4. That the State Constitution be amended to do away with the necessity of electing a County Superintendent. Claxton felt that the Superintendent should be a technical expert appointed by the Board of Education to be their chief administrator.

5. That the City Charter be changed to make provision for a Board of Education which should be independent of all other branches of city government.

1920 - Interest was high for changing the City Charter, making the Board of Education a seven man Board, nominated by the Mayor and ratified by the people, and for making the office of Superintendent appointive by the Board itself.

The Public Education Society was founded under the leadership of Mrs. Jesse Steinhart (League of Women Voters). This was a delegated organization whose purpose was to carry on the recommendation of the Claxton survey and to inform the public.

The Educational Conference of S.F. was organized and consisted of two delegates each from the various civic groups in San Francisco. They met to work on the proposed charter changes. The organizations represented included: The S.F. Center (League of Women Voters); Sr. Chamber of Commerce; the Downtown Association; S.F. Advertising Association; Federation of Labor; Council of Jewish Women; Board of Federated Women's Clubs; PTA; Commonwealth Club; AAUW. James Mullen, Editor of the Labor Clarion, was President of the Educational Conference.

Labor groups wanted an elected Board of Education. Other groups wanted an appointed Board. The groups were reconciled by making a compromise - a seven member Board representative of the various groups in San Francisco to be nominated by the Mayor subject to ratification by the people. The Board of Education was to serve a term of five years, not full time. The Superintendent was to be a technical expert to be appointed by the Board. This amendment was drawn up by outstanding specialists in the legal and educational fields. This was accomplished in July of 1920.

Page 3. History - Board of Education

1920 - In November, Amendment 37 was passed. This was the Charter Amendment which attempted to carry out the recommendations of the Claxton Survey. The League of Women Voters campaigned strongly for this amendment.

1924 - The League of Women Voters opposed a change in the method of selection of the members of the Board of Education which was now nominated by the Major and confirmed by the people.

1925 - Establishment of the fiscal independence of the School District. The Supreme Court of this State upheld the fiscal independence of the Board of Education in adopting its budget. Esberg vs. Badaracco.

1928 - The League of Women Voters protested an amendment which would have made the Board of Education elective.

1930 - After 10 years experience with the new law, a special study was made by the League of Women Voters of the thinking of interested civic groups regarding the re-organization of the Board of Education as adopted in 1921. The League found no opposition but rather an endorsement of the Charter provision. This law was incorporated into the new Charter adopted in 1932.

1930 - Election of November 4 - The League of Women Voters opposed Amendment 27 which would have made the Board of Education elective. The arguments for an elected Board were submitted by the Northern Federation of Civic Organizations and the Taxpayers' Defense League of S.F. Those who advocated this amendment wanted the power to select the men who levy 1/3 of their taxes (at this time the school budget comprised 1/3 of the property taxes levied). This would indicate that if made elective a candidate for the School Board could receive support of groups who were interested primarily in lessening amounts spent on education.

1943 - The League of Women Voters opposed an elective Board of Education.

1944 - Hill Report adopted. This report clarified to a great degree the function of the Board of Education as a policy making body and the Superintendent as the administrator. Among other recommendations, standing committees should be abolished.

1953 - Members of the League of Women Voters appeared before the Judiciary Committee of the Board of Supervisors to oppose a proposal to make the Board of Education elective.

1964 - Prior to the Annual Meeting of 1964, the Board recommended that this Continuing Responsibility on the method of selection of the members of the Board of Education be dropped as having been achieved. This recommendation was voted down at the Annual Meeting because the members felt that at some future time there might be a threat to this well established League position.

Sources of Information: California Historical Society; S.F. League of Women Voters Files; Advisory Council, League of Women Voters; Labor Clarion - Editions of 1920-21; Registrar of Voters, City Hall; Claxton Survey, Teachers Library, S.F. Board of Education.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN FRANCISCO

ARGUMENTS FOR THE PRESENT METHOD OF SELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Gloria Hirsch, Local Government.

1. The principal argument rests on the belief that selection of members of the Board of Education should be free from political considerations. The ELECTION of Board members might well be influenced by momentary feuds.

2. Able, public-spirited citizens who would gladly accept an appointive position might not choose to undergo the ordeal and expense of a campaign. It has been estimated that such a campaign could cost $90,000, and a candidate could well feel an obligation to the various groups and individuals who had helped to finance his campaign.

3. Under the present system, the Board of Education tends to be fairly representative of the community at large. A change to an elective Board would not guarantee an improvement in this regard - perhaps the reverse.

4. The larger the community, the less probable it is that an elective Board would represent the best possible choices. In a small district, the electorate can know the candidates and base its vote on informed opinions. But in a large city the voters would find it difficult to make wise choices. (The New York Times, Oct. 27, 1964, carried an interesting discussion of this point and arrived at this same conclusion.)

5. Under the present San Francisco system, the voters hold the power to reject or confirm an appointive candidate, and there have been instances when the appointee was NOT confirmed.

6. Arguments used to secure the election of candidates for the Board of Education might have popular appeal, but, at the same time, be detrimental to sound, long-range policies for the School Department. For instance, in 1930 a Charter Amendment to change to an elective Board was supported by the Taxpayers Defense League of San Francisco on the grounds that they wished to select a Board which had the power to set a portion of the tax rate. This group was primarily concerned with the spending policies rather than general good of the school system.

Dear Katherine -

It has been harder than I thought to dig up from memory the early days of "The Score" and I have probably slipped up on some of the details. It was about 1920 when Cornelia Stanwood and June Lucas asked me to lunch with them at the Womens' Faculty Club and then invited me to be one of a group they were selecting who would meet once a month to have dinner and discuss anything of interest to them. These were to be women with varied interests. I am listing the early members with a few words about most of them which are probably pretty inadequate.

(1) Katherine Felton had graduated from Berkeley in 1895 as one of the Gold Medalists. She wasinterested with social problems, particularly as they concerned children, founded the Childrens' Agency and practically single handedly raised the money for the building on Gough Street now used by the Family Service Agency of San Francisco. As long as she lived she managed the Agency, selected and trained her staff of workers without regard to their formal education or previous experience.

(2) Sarah Gregory (U C 93) worked with Katherine Felton, and was involved in numerous community projects.

(3) Jessica Peixotto (U C 94) was probably the fore-runner of the School of Social Welfare, although she objected to the term "Social Welfare" preferring "Social Economics." She worked closely with Katherine Felton and with any number of other community leaders beside managing her university responsibilities. Her position in the university is

generally known to everyone.

(4) Hattie Sloss was also a strong backer of Katherine Felton, had many other community interests, and later had her own regular radio program for the reading of poetry.

(5) Elizabeth Ashe, a trained nurse was largely responsible for the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center, and for the Bothin Convalescent Home in Marin County.

(6) Alice Griffith, a devoted friend of Elizabeth Ashe, worked with her at Telegraph Hill and in Marin, and when Elizabeth Ashe died Alice Griffith felt that the Score should cease to exist since its most important member was gone. Alice Griffith was herself largely responsible for the development of the Western Addition in San Francisco which she had hoped would become a happily integrated housing project.

(7) Adelaide Brown, an important figure in the growth of the Childrens' Hospital in San Francisco, had been in charge of a part of the Childrens' Year activities, and was responsible for developing the Baby Hygiene Committee of the A A U W which still carries on as the Mothers' Milk Bank, Inc.

(8) Elise Graupner, who for years was a sort of informal secretary for the Score was also closely associated with Adelaide Brown in the work of the Baby Hygiene Committee and was largely responsible for developing the Mothers' Milk Bank which was named in honor of Adelaide Brown.

(9) Cornelia Stanwood was much interested in politics and was also head of the ~~Katherine Burke~~ Sarah Dix Hamlin School for girls.

(10) June Lucas had a good many general interests but was primarily interested in building up the reputation of Dr. Lucas at U C.

(11) Mary Yost was Dean of Women at Stanford.

(12) Edith Mirrielees was on the English faculty at Stanford, a member of the Breadloaf Writers' Conference, a contributor to many magazines , and author of "Stanford - The Story of a University."

(13) Mary Wilson was head of the Anna Head School for girls. (14) Aurelia Reinhardt, (15) Helen Douglas, (16) Lucy Stebbins, and (17) Emma McLaughlin are all well known to you. (18) Della van Loben Sels, like me, was one of the early members.

Among some of our not so early members were Edith Stebbins, a gifted dramatist from Mills College, Evelyn Little, Emma Willetts, a San Francisco surgeon; Mrs. Alexander Meiklejohn, Mrs. Duncan MacDuffie, and Dorothy Williams. (For a short time Margaret James* . . . . . whose married name I cannot remember, the daughter of William James, was with us until her early death.) Our present list of members you know. I'm pretty sure I've missed some short term members and know I haven't given credit for many achievements, but this will give you some idea of our beginnings. Sorry I have been so poky about getting this to you.

Olga Bridgman

* Mrs. Bruce Porter

1967 Members of "Score"

Dr. Mary Woods Bennett, Provost and Dean of the Faculty, Mills College

Olga Bridgman, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Emeritus, UC, Professor of Psychology, Emeritus, UC

Mrs. Philip Conley (Phoebe), member of Board of Trustees of the State Colleges, lives in Fresno

Dean Katherine A. Towle, Dean of Students, Emeritus, UC, Col. U.S.M.C., retired

Dr. Emily Huntington, Professor of Economics, Emeritus, UC

Mrs. Mary Hutchinson, formerly with U.S. Department of Labor and Employment. Now retired.

Dr. Mary H. Layman, physician, Stanford University, Emeritus

Dr. Evelyn Steel Little, Librarian, Emeritus, Mills College

Mrs. Harley Stevens (Georgiana), writer on international affairs

Miss Ruth Turner, volunteer worker, on Children's Hospital Board, former president of League of Women Voters, San Francisco, Juvenile Probation Committee

Mrs. James van Loben Sels (Della) and

Mrs. Emma McLaughlin

THE INSTITUTE OF PACIFIC RELATIONS

The Institute of Pacific Relations to which Mrs. McLaughlin gave so much of her time for so many years, was born in Honolulu. A group of business leaders, led by Frank Atherton and Wallace Alexander, were convinced that Hawaii's example of racial tolerance could be translated to the wider theater of the Pacific. The idealistic influence on these men of their missionary forbears was the driving force behind their initiative. They were concerned by the growing bitterness of the immigration controversy in California and the rising violence of the revolutionary protests against foreign privilege in the Chinese ports. Behind these immediate concerns was the perennial problem of American relations with Japan. The Hawaiian group turned to the Y.M.C.A. which was then almost the only international institution with branches in all the Pacific countries. The first meeting in 1925 was called as a Y.M.C.A. conference. When it met, however, President Ray Lyman Wilbur of Stanford took control and began to transform the meeting into an organization for discussion among academic and business leaders, based on a research program financed by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation. The Institute of Pacific Relations was not formally constituted until the second conference at Honolulu in 1927.

I attended the 1925 conference as a member of the New Zealand group and subsequently, at Dr. Wilbur's request, organized the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs to work both with the Institute of Pacific Relations and with the Royal Institute of International Affairs. In 1925 the Australian, Canadian and New Zealand participants had been embarrassed by the Chinese attacks on British policy. They had therefore urged that the membership of the Institute be widened to include Britain.

In 1927, when the formative conference was convened, the British sent a powerful delegation including Sir Frederick Whyte, Arnold Toynbee, and Lionel Curtis - and a trio of young secretaries, Malcolm MacDonald, Lord Castlereagh and the Hon. William Astor, with whom Mrs. McLaughlin was intrigued. By this time I was Research Secretary on the central staff.

The United States, and indeed all the Pacific countries, also sent representative delegations. Among the American group were three ladies from San Francisco, Mrs. Aurelia Reinhardt, Mrs. Jean McDuffie, and Mrs. McLaughlin, who quickly won everyone's respect and admiration. Dr. Wilbur was a shrewd judge of people and knew who carried weight in their own community.

As Mrs. McLaughlin has recorded, chief interest was centered in two essentially political dialogues. The minor dialogue was Professor Shotwell's discussion with Professor Takayanagi of the declaration that subsequently became known as the Kellogg Pact, renouncing war as an instrument of national policy. Soon after his return, Professor Takayanagi secured Japanese adherence to the Pact. Though soon made a mockery by events, the Pact is not without importance as a significant declaration of the common will for peaceful solution of international conflicts.

The major dialogue, however, was between the British and the Chinese groups. The first conference had met under the shadow of the 1925 Shanghai uprising which had been forcibly repressed. There was still a detachment of British troops in Shanghai. Meantime the diplomatic relations between Britain and the confusion of Chinese authorities were strained almost to breaking point. The nationalist movement started by Sun Yat-sen had begun to move north from its base in Shanghai. Leadership had passed to Chiang Kai-shek. The Shanghai bankers, who were the most powerful business group in China, had swung to his support, despite the fact that power still rested nominally with the Peking government, though actually shared by warlords

controlling the various provinces. Chiang Kai-shek still had Russian advisers; but showed signs of breaking away from them.

Everyone was fascinated as the leaders of the Chinese and British groups used one of the round-tables to clarify the issues and explore the possibilities of restoring friendly relations. Dr.David Yui, the General Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. in China was a friend and supporter of Chiang Kai-shek. He was also in close touch with many of the Shanghai leaders, including Dr. H.H. Kung and the Soong family. Later he was to read the Anglican marriage service (omitting the priest's blessing since he was not ordained) when Chiang married Soong Mei-ling. The eldest sister of the Soong family was the widow of Sun Yat-sen, the other sister was Dr. Kung's wife, and T.V. Soong became Finance Minister in Chiang's government. This was the leadership of the emerging Nationalist China.

The discussion was cautious, proceeding point by point, and confined almost entirely to Whyte and Yui. At one stage, Bill Astor tried several times to express an idea, but was cut short each time by Whyte's crisp interruption. He persisted until, while David Yui was speaking, I heard Whyte whisper to him - "If you don't shut up, I'll wring your bloody neck". Gradually an understanding was reached. Cables went back and forth to Shanghai and London. When the conference ended, Sir Frederick Whyte sailed to China and was appointed Political Adviser to Chiang Kai-shek. The breach was healed and, as Mrs. McLaughlin makes clear in her oral interview, everyone felt that we had been privileged to witness a turning point in history.

In her oral interviews, Mrs. McLaughlin has recorded her impressions of the conference and of the return voyage with several members of the British and American groups. It was a good conference, with able men and women free to express their individual views in an atmosphere of friendly interchange. In retrospect, however, it showed the seeds of the later difficulties in which the Institute was involved. Conceived as an entirely unofficial conference where private persons could exchange views on the basis of scholarly research, without government briefing or responsibility, it was turned by the British initiative into what amounted to semi-official negotiations. As the sequel showed, other groups could use it for such purposes. The Chinese did so when the third conference met at Kyoto in 1929.

Moreover, in the flush of success, ambitious plans were made for rapid expansion of the Institute. The General Secretary, J. Merle Davis, was authorized to appoint Under-Secretaries from Japan and China, and to undertake an extensive program to organize national branches. Invitations were extended to France and the Netherlands and overtures were made to the U.S.S.R. To finance this expansion, a large budget was projected. Responsibility for raising the funds was entrusted to the secretary of the United States Council, Edward C. Carter. With many misgivings, the General Secretary accepted these instructions and allowed the vital function of financing the Institute to pass out of his control, while becoming responsible for the greatly increased expenditures projected in the budget. It was unfortunate that, at this critical juncture, Dr. Wilbur accepted an invitation to join President Hoover's cabinet and, in pursuance of his own strict ruling that the Institute should remain entirely unofficial, resigned as Chairman of the Pacific Council.

The funds were not raised, and the third conference met at Kyoto in 1929 with an intolerable overdraft. The Royal Institute reacted by proposing immediate and severe economies, including

the elimination of the research program and the reduction of the secretariat to a skeleton staff. It became clear that the decision-making power would pass from the Hawaiian Council which had supervised the central secretariat to the American and British groups, and largely to Mr. Carter and the officers of the Royal Institute of International Affairs. Ultimate authority rested in the Pacific Council, consisting of the Chairmen of the national groups, but its membership was too dispersed to be able to meet except at the biennial conferences. The new Chairman, Mr. Jerome D. Greene, lived in New York and interim preparations would be largely in the hands of Mr. Carter.

The Japanese group had invited the Institute to Kyoto for its third conference in November, 1929. The Japanese research group tried to prevent Manchuria being placed on the program; but the Chinese insisted that it was the only subject they wished to talk about. Before leaving Shanghai, they gave interviews designed to placate their nationalist critics in China. These were headlined in the Japanese papers. A large section of the Japanese members of the conference demanded a meeting with the Chairman of the Pacific Council and the General Secretary. Both Jerome Greene and Merle Davis had been born in Kyoto, sons of the missionaries who founded Doshisha University. The opening ceremonies were well along before they could persuade the dissident group led by Matsuoka, Yosuke, that they should join the main group, since not to do so would be to insult the Emperor who had sent a personal representative to welcome the conference. The opening meeting ended in harmony when Jerome Greene begged leave to lapse into his native tongue and spoke a few carefully rehearsed sentences in Japanese. All retired to their rooms to find the Chinese group had distributed copies of the so-called Tanaka Memorial, outlining the Japanese plans (which were duly followed twelve years later) for the conquest of Asia. Dr.Nitobe, Inazo, the Japanese Research Chairman, ridiculed the document as a clumsy forgery. It was actually the first draft of a plan that some junior officers hoped

that General Tanaka would present to the Emperor, stolen by a Chinese servant who sold it to the Chinese. Mrs. McLaughlin reports that there was some bewilderment among the conference members, as indeed there was, since every effort was made to bury the subject and avoid raising an international controversy.

When the Kyto Conference ended, the General Secretary's resignation had been accepted, and the appointments of the remaining senior officials - the Chinese and Japanese Under-Secretaries and the Information Secretary - had been terminated. My own position as Research Secretary was confirmed, but I found the situation intolerable and accepted a chair at the University of Michigan, though I gave a third of my time to the Institute until at the end of the academic year, I went to the League of Nations. Mr. Chester Rowell had been appointed Information Secretary, but both he and Miss Green, the editor of Pacific Affairs, left the Institute. Mr. Charles F. Loomis, who had been the first secretary of the Hawaiian group and on Merle Davis's appointment, had become Program Secretary, was appointed acting General Secretary. But it was clear that the real power lay in the hands of Mr. Carter and it was not long before he took over in name as well as in fact. The headquarters of the Institute were shifted to New York where the enlarged American secretariat took over responsibility for the international as well as the American group functions.

This background is necessary to understand the positions of Mrs. McLaughlin's oral interviews that deal with the increasing distrust she felt of Mr. Carter and his direction of the Institute. He was a person of unusual, incessant, activity, a considerable part of which was directed towards promoting closer relations with the U.S.S.R., and an effort to create a Russian branch of the Institute. To this end, he employed some people in the secretariat who were later disclosed to be active members of the Communist party and a number of others who were at least sympathetic to the U.S.S.R. In this period, the Russians were moving in fear of Germany towards rapprochement with the Western countries. The

U.S.S.R. had been admitted to the League of Nations in 1933, and had been recognized by the United States government. In later years, however, Mr. Carter's voluminous correspondence was to be confiscated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and used as the basis for investigation by a Senate Committee presided over by Senator McCarran of Nevada. Though no formal accusation of communism was ever made against Mr. Carter, the Secretary of the American Council, Frederick V. Field, was convicted. The publicity resulting from the McCarran committee proceedings dried up the sources of funds and eventually in the atmosphere of the cold war, the Institute ceased to exist.

Mrs. McLaughlin's conflict with Carter, however, had a more immediate basis in his attitude towards the San Francisco Council of the I.P.R., which he constantly over-rode and deprecated, as he concentrated all the activities in his New York office. This concentration, including the disposal of research grants from the foundations which he used largely to build up the New York staff, also gave rise to increasing concern in the national branches overseas, particularly the Japanese. The Institute quickly became identified with its New York office.

At San Francisco a vigorous local council was created. Mr. Chester Rowell was chairman, but as the founding members of the group died, Mrs. McLaughlin became the embodiment and inspiration of its educational and research programs. Mr. Carter constantly pressed for the San Francisco and Hawaiian groups to raise money; but deprecated their local programs as a waste of funds and endeavored to concentrate all the Institute activites under his control in the New York office. Actually a successful program of educational activity in the schools was developed under the leadership of Jack Oakie, who was part Japanese. I was living in Geneva and London and do not know the details of the conflict that led not only Mrs.McLaughlin, but Mrs. McDuffie and Mr.Rowell to increasing distrust of Mr. Carter. I can only record the general impression gleaned from two brief visits to

San Francisco as we passed through on home leave, and from conversations after we returned to live in Berkeley at the end of 1939.

When the Japanese population of California was interned after Pearl Harbor, Jack Oakie ceased to be secretary of the San Francisco Council. His place, however, was taken by Professor Eugene Staley, who interrupted his academic career to devote himself to building the I.P.R. as a means of reconciliation when the war should end. I was drawn again into the local group activities which were much diminished. Mrs. McLaughlin was the center of the group, always steadfast and never daunted by difficulties.

To many of her friends, her practice of gathering a small group at dinner in her own home became a privilege and is now a treasured memory. She chose her guests carefully so that there could be informed discussion. Jimmy, her Chinese cook, would produce a wonderful meal, the pièce de resistance of which was roast beef and a large soufflé. Conversation at the table was general until she withdrew with the ladies, after asking one of the men to take over the coffee, liqueurs and cigars, but not to dally over them too long. When the company reassembled she would launch a discussion on whatever topic was the occasion for the gathering.

This was only one aspect of her many-sided life. It is difficult to enumerate all her many interests - in women's groups, in the San Francisco Foundation, in city and national affairs. But international, and especially Pacific, issues occupied a large part of her attention. Yet she remained essentially human and feminine and never failed to follow with the most intimate concern the personal and family interests of her wide circle of friends. To all she was a trusted counsellor, staunch, unvarying in her standards, gracious and never obtruding her own worries and ills. Once she remarked to us when we were alone with her - "You have no idea how much maintenance this old carcase needs." But

almost to the last, and then only to most intimate friends, she never admitted or gave hint of personal preoccupations.

It was at these private gatherings in her own home or in ours or in those of other friends, occasionally on holidays together, that I gathered what I know of her conflict with Mr. Carter. At I.P.R. and other meetings she followed the strict rule of discussing issues impersonally, without imputing or insinuating motives.

The time came when it was obvious that in view of the difficulties into which the I.P.R. was falling, the San Francisco group must be broadened or cease to exist. Mr. Rowell was still active, but he was Chairman of many other international organizations. He used to say that if one should list the bodies of which Guy Talbot was secretary, he would be found chairman of all of them. Mr. Talbot was an indefatigable organizer, always on insufficient funds and nearly always with the same group of supporters. It became apparent to many of us and especially to Dr. Monroe Deutsch who had become chairman of the San Francisco I.P.R. and to Eugene Staley that the solution was to group all the research organizations into one strong World Affairs Council. To secure tax exemption, it was necessary to omit those groups formed to promote particular purposes such as the League of Nations Association which preceded the United Nations Association. The opportunity to crystallize this project came when Mr. Rowell and Mr. Talbot died within a brief space of time. Mr. Rowell had for many years been a trustee of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, which made him an annual grant of $10,000, to support the causes in which he was interested. At this time I was Associate-Director of the Endowment working with Professor Shotwell on the economic aspects of international bodies to replace the League of Nations. The Endowment appointed Mr. Alger Hiss as President to replace Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler. He proceeded to eliminate many of its activities (including my position) in order to develop new programs. Among others he cancelled the Rowell grant; but was persuaded with difficulty to continue it for one more year to enable Dr. Deutsch

to create the World Affairs Council. There was some opposition and suspicion of the newly formed Council, mainly on the part of Mr. Stuart Ward who was then secretary of the Commonwealth Club. Since the Council took over, and indeed was largely created by, the I.P.R. group in San Francisco some of the bad repute of the New York headquarters of the I.P.R. was used against its formation. Dr. Deutsch and Mrs. McLaughlin raised no problems about the signature on the Endowment check; but when Mr. Hiss was brought to trial, none of us presented this tit-bit of information to our critics.

The subsequent development of the World Affairs Council will be described by Garland Farmer who took over its direction at a critical moment in its early career. Without anticipating what he will write, but without fear of contradiction, I need only say that Mrs. McLaughlin not only was its wise counsellor and staunch defender from the beginning; but came to be, in the eyes of all associated with it, its very soul. No one doubted that she would stand by it or that, as long as she was there, it was worth standing by. In a sense it is her monument and legacy to those who follow in her train.

Dr. J. B. Condliffe
N.Z. Institute of Economic Research, (Inc.)
Wellington, New Zealand

March 28, 1969

RECOLLECTIONS ON MRS. ALFRED McLAUGHLIN

By Howard A. Cook, President, International House, New York City. Formerly Associate Educational Director and later Executive Director, World Affairs Council of Northern California, June, 1948 - April, 1952

When I first met Mrs. McLaughlin she was Secretary of the Institute of Pacific Relations in San Francisco and we were both attending a conference sponsored by the Institute on the campus of Stanford University. I think the time was June, 1946 and I was a graduate student at Stanford, working on a master's degree in International Relations. I had been asked to be a rapporteur at the conference. To me she was a "proper Bostonian," very dignified, very interested in students, a keen observer of the international scene and a person who was a bit stand-offish until one got to know her.

Two years later, in June of 1948, I left a job in Cleveland to join the staff of the newly created World Affairs Council of Northern California. She was Secretary of the Council and had worked very hard with Eugene Staley in bringing the Council into being in June of 1947. Eugene Staley was devoted to her and he passed on to me his admiration for her.

Mrs. McLaughlin deeply believed in public education in world affairs. She was a person of great integrity and championed many causes in San Francisco from international affairs to the League of Women Voters to Quaker work-camps. She was highly respected among leaders in San Francisco and got things done.

As a new, young, inexperienced staff member in San Francisco, I found her invaluable when I became the Executive Director of the World Affairs Council in 1949 when Eugene Staley moved to the Stanford Research Institute. She knew the leadership in San Francisco and helped to bring people onto the Board who could be helpful. She knew the strengths and weaknesses of the volunteers and she had a very good organizational sense. In addition, she would do anything for the World Affairs Council, from securing volunteers for a project to giving a formal dinner party for twenty for a visiting speaker. Everything she did was done in perfect taste and with an eye toward the comfort of her guests and toward a stimulating evening. She had a fine mind and would ask just the right questions to turn the conversation in an interesting direction.

The other Board members respected her and loved her too. As an example of their concern for her, I remember all of us agreeing that her driving of an automobile was rather absent-minded and hazardous. Her friends persuaded her to buy a heavy car, namely a Cadillac, so that if she did have an accident at least she would be protected by the heaviness of the car. I also remember a birthday party given to her by her friends on the Board. It must have been her seventieth birthday. There was a great deal of devotion shown by the Board members and staff at that party, which was held at the World Affairs Council Headquarters.

I worked closely with her during the period when Senator Joseph McCarthy was giving the nation a new word - McCarthyism. She had no use for the Senator and his methods and staunchly defended individuals and institutions which were being wrongly accused of being "soft on communism."

She had a remarkable ability to bridge the generation gap. Several years ago, my son, then aged twenty, and his cousin visited with Mrs. McLaughlin and they squired her about San Francisco on several occasions. Each time I received glowing reports about the stimulating conversations they had had with her about domestic politics and international affairs.

In conclusion, if I were asked, "Who is responsible for putting the World Affairs Council of Northern California on the map in San Francisco?" I would say Emma McLaughlin, a person long to be remembered.

(former Director World Affairs Council.)

DRAFT

by Garland Farmer
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February 13, 1969 391

A few months before her final illness, Mrs. McLaughlin wrote a history of the World Affairs Council which, in her characterically no-nonsense tone, gives a good chronology of the organization and a feel for its growth and problems. However, her history, also characteristically, ignored the central importance to the Council of Mrs. McLaughlin and her living room on Clay Street.

The meetings which led to the creation of the Council were held at her home, not merely because she was a leader in the Institute of Pacific Relations (the Council's forebear, blessing and curse), but even more because she was an almost unique link between the disparate elements of the community which were to make up the Council. Through most of the Council's career, Manteca-fed beef, Chinese snow-peas and that benevolent hostess were powerful, if unofficial, forces in the organization's growth.

In another, such a role might have been resented, would probably have been disruptive rather than creative. Mrs. McLaughlin's devotion to the Council and the community it served was so clear as to forbid jealousy or resentment. Indeed, it may be that her most valuable contribution to the Council was to have served as a catalyst, a common denominator, a bridge between sectors of the Northern California community which would otherwise have found no common meeting ground.

But she was also virtually unique among Council leaders in her knowledge of--and sympathy for--the Council as a whole: its varied programs, its finances, its rapidly changing staff, its struggling affiliated councils, its personalities, its strengths and its shortcomings. This catholicity of interest and concern is probably best illustrated by random episodes, of the hundreds that might be told.

In 1952 the Council was going through one of its periodic financial crises. A new Director was brought in with instructions to balance the budget, reduce the deficit, pull the struggling Annual Conference from the brink of failure; all this with no appreciable reduction in general program, of course. The first hurdle was the Conference which, though no howling success, at least lost no money and only a few friends. The day after it ended, Mrs. McLaughlin called upon the Director's wife, bringing a huge steak and a bottle of vintage champagne. The wife, said Mrs. McLaughlin, had suffered the trials of preparing the conference and she should have a chance to celebrate its "success". (The staff adored her, delighting in her unfailing habit of leaving a dime every time she used the Council telephone; she knew too much of the Council's money troubles to impose further costs.)

A few months after the Conference, the dreary fiscal year neared its end, with hopes high for showing a small surplus. This welcome result was partly due to a reduction in personnel, which had been achieved with a minimum reduction in program but with a substantial loss of efficiency. Mistakes in membership billings were particularly annoying. In the midst of a flurry of complaints, a check arrived from Mrs. McLaughlin in an amount equal to her annual contribution, which was not due for months. Chagrined that she had probably been dunned by mistake, the Director called to apologize and say her check was being returned. Not a bit of it; she was doubling her contribution because, "I know what a good job has been done down there, but the businessmen we need may not. I want the surplus to be larger so they can see what has been accomplished."

Because she had implicit faith in the system of volunteer committees which guided the Council from its beginning (and, in large part, was a reflection of her League of Women Voters experience), no committee's work

was too humdrum for her to give it generous time and attention; she helped to draft a personnel manual with the same care she gave to planning a year's program. I am sure no other Council member ever served on as many of its committees as she did.

For all her appreciation of the nuts and bolts of organization, however, her true enthusiasm was for the process of learning, and helping to create an informed citizenry. She participated actively in the Council's study groups and was a relentless goad toward high standards of work, often quoting some old friend to the effect that "a pooling of ignorance is not an educational experience."

She also attended most Council lectures, out of both a sense of duty to help the Council fill seats and an insatiable thirst for information. About the only Council function which she did not support with enthusiasm was the "society-page" dinner honoring visiting--usually inarticulate--potentates. Even so, she invariably responded to the call to buy $25 seats, accepting the premise that the dinners did keep the organization's name before a larger public than it would otherwise have had.

Her personal preference for participatory learning meant she had a great interest in the Council's library (which had inherited the IPR's great collection on the Pacific area), and she was quick to defend the library against the recurrent argument that it served too few members and was too expensive. When austerity struck the periodical subscriptions one year, the library soon was receiving her own copies of The Economist, Harper's and the like.

She was also quick to defend the Council's faithful, if sometimes uninspiring, "sit-and-listen" clientele and fought the occasional suggestion that the Council confine itself to serving an "elite", leaving the sit-and-listeners to Town Hall.

No problem escaped her attention. Some years ago the Council lost the sweet young lady who was manning a switchboard, serving as receptionist and running a pamphlet shop. The prospects for finding a replacement were dim; the salary was risible and the job was tiring and lacking in prestige. As usual, Mrs. McLaughlin offered her help. She had a classmate who, she thought, might like the job. Mrs. McLaughlin was then approaching seventy--vigorous and alert, but seventy. The Director was at a loss to explain that the job demanded a younger person so he set an appointment for the classmate. At the appointed hour, Mrs. McLaughlin brought in a delightful twenty-year-old, who--as anyone who knew Mrs. McLaughlin's routine could have foreseen--had gone to summer school with Mrs. McLaughlin the year before.

On the other hand, the last time Dean Rusk visited San Francisco as Secretary of State, a few Council Board members were invited to cocktails with him prior to a large dinner in his honor. Through some oversight, Mrs. McLaughlin was not included, so she took her place in the dining room with several hundred others. When Secretary Rusk arrived for cocktails, he missed her and asked that someone invite her to join him, saying that one of the reasons he had accepted the Council's invitation to speak was that it would give him a chance to see Emma McLaughlin.

Many Council members felt the same way. The Council was a fine place to learn of world affairs and to serve the community, but it was also a very good place to see Emma McLaughlin, at her best.

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MRS. ALFRED McLAUGHLIN

Distribution Committee Member, 1948-1968

Mrs. Alfred McLaughlin served The San Francisco Foundation with devotion and distinction for more than twenty years. When the Foundation was launched early in 1948, she had been named one of the seven members of the original Distribution Committee, the governing body which disburses moneys from all the Foundation's various funds. She remained a member until her death in mid-1968.

Members of the Distribution Committee are appointed for five year terms by the persons who happen, at the appropriate times, to hold certain offices. Mrs. McLaughlin was appointed in 1947 by the then President of the San Francisco League of Women Voters, and was reappointed -- to the great satisfaction of all of us -- every five years thereafter.

During her long membership, Mrs. McLaughlin was always -- in years -- the senior member. Yet often I have heard men many years her junior say, after a meeting, that they would like to have her ability to cut through to the essence of a matter under discussion, cogently state the problem, and give the reasons for her position. For twenty years her voice and vote in the Committee's deliberations were always respected and often reflected in the final decisions.

It was typical of Mrs. McLaughlin that when a controversial matter appeared in the Docket for a forthcoming meeting, she would quite likely telephone me at the office and flatly ask, "Am I wrong?" She was sparing of criticism and generous with praise. It was prudent to have pencil and paper handy when she called, for she often pointed up aspects of a problem that needed further exploration.

A number of the Foundation's useful actions can be traced to her initiative. For example, our first substantial grant (and KQED's first financial support) had its genesis at her dinner table, with the

members of our early Advisory Committee -- all admirers of hers -- working over the idea of backing the educational TV station and recommending it strongly to the Distribution Committee, where of course it carried. In her last year I asked Mrs. McLaughlin to take the lead in discussion of a particularly knotty matter. When it came up, her performance was lucid and persuasive. The grant was made. Let it also be said she sometimes took the occasion to knock on the head a request for a grant which she considered inappropriate. And when she did -- it was dead.

Mrs. McLaughlin gave more than these things to The San Francisco Foundation. Her name, symbolizing as it did total integrity, fine citizenship, great courage and wise judgment, was a precious asset to the Foundation. In little things like her almost flawless record of attendance at meetings, she set an example for other busy members. She was there -- always choosing the same position at the table before the appointed time.

On the more personal level, Mrs. McLaughlin was a generous critic and -- once her friendship was given -- a fast friend. I am proud to think that I had her trust, and I treasure the gift of her friendship.

JOHN R. MAY
Executive Director

Mrs. Alfred Mc Laughlin
3575 Clay Street
San Francisco, California

September 6, 1966

Mrs. Helene Brewer
International House of Japan
No. 2 Toriizaka-Machi
Azabu, Minata Ku
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Helene:

I fear that this note will not reach you as I had planned to greet you as you landed but in any case I welcome you to Japan.

Now I plunge into the discussion which will ease my mind since I failed you completely when you asked me about the general public opinion and actions in the early 20's. My reply was that I was very much occupied at the time with my brother's difficulties as he was losing an empire. I was occupied at the time and he did lose an empire. However, that does not really tell the story since as always one has to live on several levels of mind and emotions.

San Francisco was vigorous and creative during the 20's except in the last few years as the 30's approached. I was in the thick of things - probably the busiest and most interesting time of my life as far as public work was concerned. I was president of the League and as I was finishing that I was working for 18 months with the group that brought the Community Chest into being. Morgan Gunst was chairman of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Charities Endorsement Committee. Mabel Week was secretary.

Altogether the representatives of the community and social welfare organization, a committee of 18 and I worked for that one and one half years. This was a real achievement and the people of the town gave their best to it. It functioned exceedingly well and great progress was made as long as Ray Lymon Wilbur was chairman of the Social Group. Its fine work was sacrificed to satisfy Miss Felton's ego and the director Paul Davis. Mabel Weed as secretary of the Social Group resigned and so did I.

Through all this whole period there was a fine group of citizens who worked hard to get a good board of supervisors. It was at this time that we elected Margaret Mary Morgan as the first woman supervisor. She was an exceedingly capable person who had been in the printing business all her business life and had had some training in the League.

I believe there were at least three elections when fine people were induced to run and several were elected as supervisors.

The impetus of this did not continue because while the business men did work before the elections and during the election, they failed to give the good supervisors proper support after they were elected.

In 1924 I was working actively in the Internation Relations office on the League of Nations Association and in 27 I was invited to go to the Institute of Pacific Relations meeting in Honolulu. Dr. Wilbur was chairman and the personnel was from China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and England as well as the American group all of whom were outstanding citizens.

Dr. Wilbur asked me to open an office in San Francisco. This was in existence 20 years and I was part of it all this time.

There was a period of great prosperity in America and it was apparent in 28 and 29 that we were having a great upsurge in enjoyment of luxury and maybe a release of the sense of responsibility. It is my opinion that we never had, on this Coast at least, the general release from any puritanical notions that was written about in regards to the great cities on the Atlantic Coast.

By this time you have undoubtedly recognized that this question came up as we were thinking in regards to Faulkner and similar writers of that period. I had to leave Berkeley and the Faculty Group Friday after you left since the plumbers were not making enough assertion in our household here.

I leave tomorrow with Jimmie and Claire for Tahoe. My daughter has to go on a hunting trip with her husband.

I am a little amused that going up now seems a matter of duty since they very carefully plan for the place to be free for me since I prefer the Lake when the summer crowd has gone.

The polls seem to be leaning somewhat in Brown's favor and more people are realizing that they must not give responsibility to an untried and inexperienced man.

I trust that you will enjoy meeting the challenge of Japan.

Au revoir for the present.

Sincerely yours,

Emma M. McLaughlin

(Mrs. Alfred Mc Laughlin)

From "Mature Living" by Anita Day Hubbard
The San Francisco Examiner - December 4, 1959.

Mrs. Alfred McLaughlin, born Emma Moffat in San Francisco on Sept. 21, 1880, got her start as a responsible citizen as a mere toddler.

Anita Day Hubbard

Her father took her with him to the furiously active political meetings, in which he had the vivid interest of the period.

By the time she was enrolled in Miss West's Seminary in the early nineties, one of the teachers, Caroline Jackson Cornell, a dedicated advocate of the still remote women's suffrage movement, stirred her fashionable young charges to her own enthusiasm. Young Emma Moffat never faltered, from that day to this, in her public service.

Her present devotion, along with a dozen other projects, is to the World Affairs Council here, which she helped organize in 1947.

"Public action, based on established knowledge, creates the ideal citizenship," she feels.

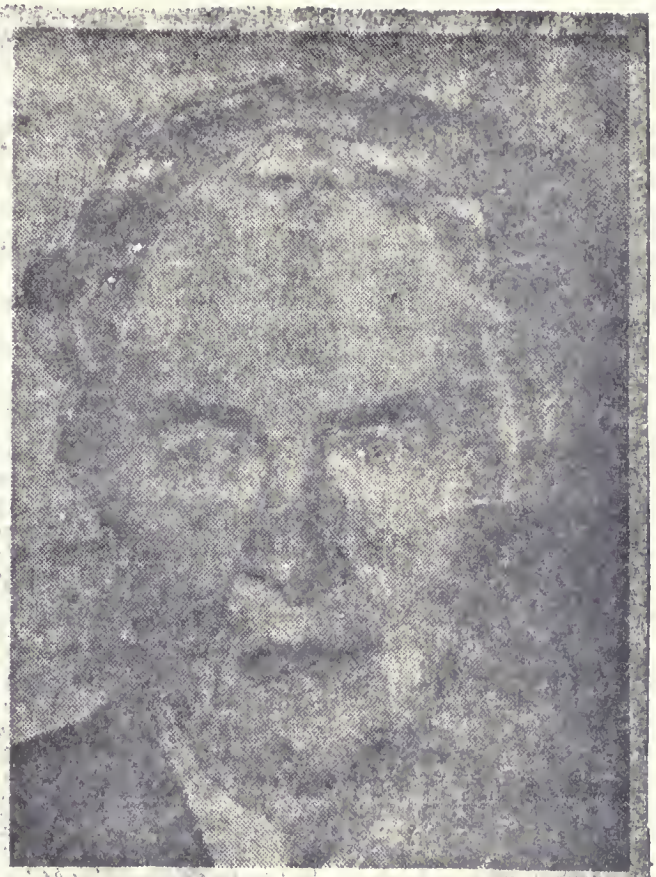
"It is wonderful to see determined, serious young people attending study groups, getting ready to take over, in an enlightened way, when the time comes for their leadership.

"I feel that this is a fertile seed bed of fine citizenry. The old, emotional, uninformed attitude of the average voter is outmoded.

"These young people, many of them with war experience, are pioneering in their own age, as our ancestors did in the beginning of the Nation. Working with them is exciting and rewarding."

As a member of the disbursing committee of the San Francisco Foundation, since 1948, she is devoting long hours to studying the needs of various agencies and worthwhile projects. She is very active in the League of Women Voters, a director of the League for Planned Parenthood, of International House, U. C., and trustee and program chairman of the World Affairs Council, among many other commitments.

Her father, Henry Moffat, and his brother from Rhode Island came to California in 1857 and started a meat packing business in the Bayview District.



MRS. ALFRED McLAUGHLIN
. . . never failed in public service

But by 1864, with feeling running high over the second election of Abraham Lincoln, they took opposite sides. Henry, a Democrat, hoisted a rebel flag over the packing plant. His brother hauled it down. That did it.

Henry seceded and set up in business for himself. Mrs. McLaughlin is still an active director in the big H. Moffat Company here, and still takes her civic responsibility with the vigor of that pioneer spirit.

At a time when few women went to college, she graduated from the University of California in 1902. Mills College gave her an honorary degree in 1942.

She married Dr. Alfred McLaughlin, who was her father's physician in 1904. As a young doctor's wife, in those days when the social welfare structure was non-existent, with no organized charity whatever, she soon realized there was need for more than the haphazard person to person, casual help for the unfortunate.

The natural sympathy of her father's Irish ancestors and her mother's State of Maine acceptance of full responsibility for one's environment, plus the first hand observance of her husband's needy patients, crystallized her aims.

When the doctor died of tuberculosis and overwork in 1908, leaving her with a little daughter to rear alone, it took only a few years for her to become chairman of the Baby Hygiene Committee of the American Association of University Women.

She was director of the Public Education Society, member of the California State Committee of Children's Year, by 1917, and president of the San Francisco Center, League of Women Voters, member of the Board of the Department

"Mature Living" - continued

of Social Welfare of the State, of the Library Commission of San Francisco and so on and so on. The list of her civic services fills a long space in the tiny cramped type of "Who's Who." She is still adding to it.

Mrs. McLaughlin "remembers when" in the whole field of social welfare.

Although she has devoted more hours and years than most public servants to the work of civic betterment, she has never held a paid job.

"Looking backward over the last half-century, we have come a long way. Looking ahead, we have an even longer way to go," she says. "I have loved every challenging, fighting, pioneering minute of it.

"There were wonderful women working together in those early days. I remember a host of them. There was Dr. Adelaide Brown and Jessica Plexotto and Dr. Marianna Bertola, Kittie Felton and Mrs. Sigmund Stern, Alice Griffith and Elizabeth Ashe, Mrs. E. S. Heller and many, many others.

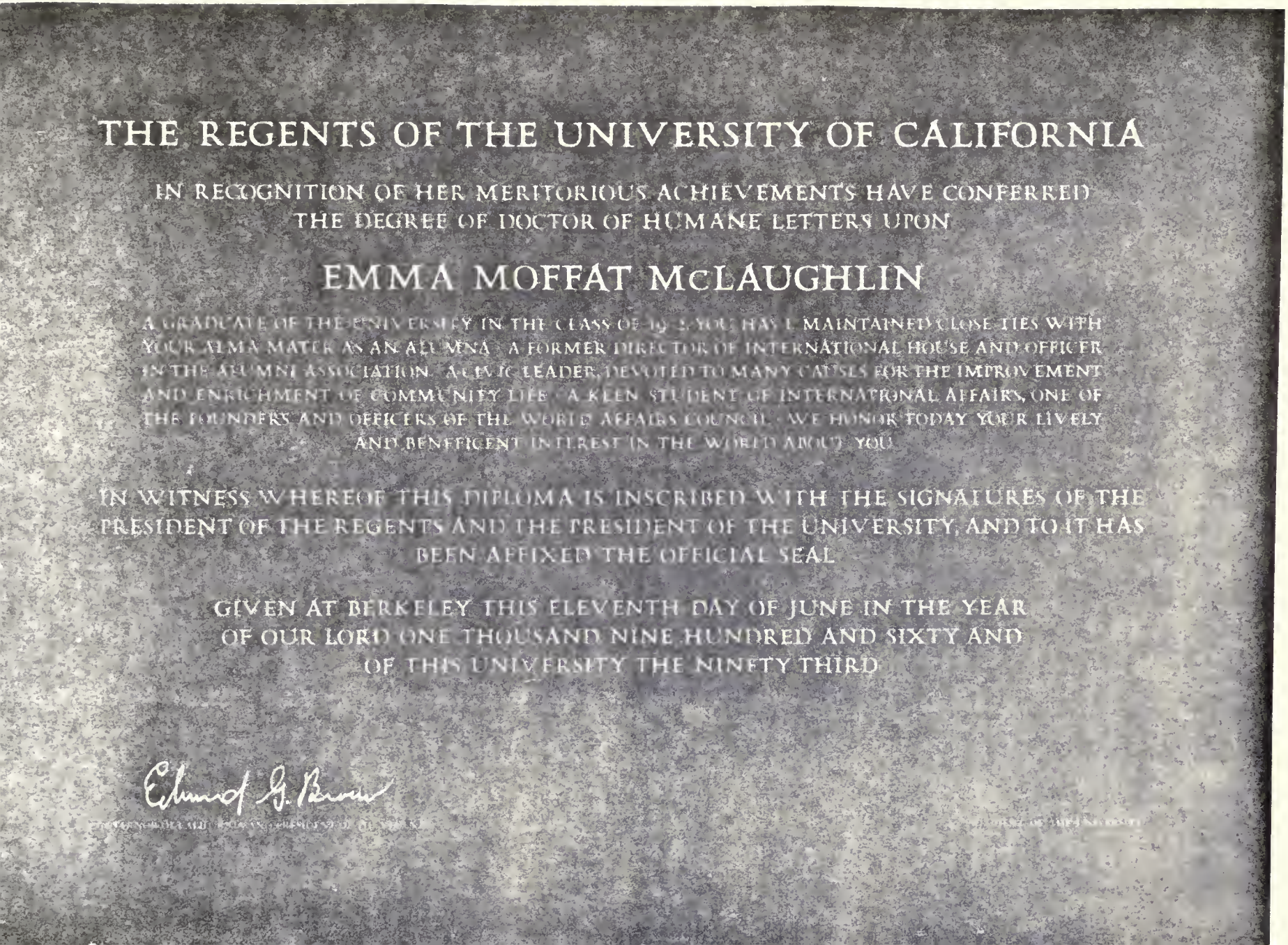
"We had no formal road maps, no precedents, only the needs of humanity that must be met by a decent community with a social conscience.

"Neighborhood by neighborhood, project by project, from the old Associated Charities, the Community Chest, and now the United Crusade, the needs are still there and the organization more complicated, as needs be.

"Now our frontiers have gone beyond the old town, and the State and even the continent. In the space age there are no real frontiers in the striving for universal peace and the brotherhood of humanity.

"A responsible citizenry is the only sure guarantee of responsible public servants."

With her 79 years light on her erect, trim shoulders, her brilliant blue eyes flashing like the Irish Sea with the sun on it, with a daughter and three grandchildren and one great-grandchild all University of California graduates or aiming at it, with a myriad inspired friends and associates, Mrs. Alfred McLaughlin looks to the future with an enlightened optimism, truly a "responsible citizen," in the grand manner.



THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

IN RECOGNITION OF HER MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE CONFERRED
THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS UPON

EMMA MOFFAT McLAUGHLIN

A GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY IN THE CLASS OF 19[illegible] YOU HAVE MAINTAINED CLOSE TIES WITH YOUR ALMA MATER AS AN ALUMNA · A FORMER DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL HOUSE AND OFFICER IN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION · A CIVIC LEADER, DEVOTED TO MANY CAUSES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND ENRICHMENT OF COMMUNITY LIFE · A KEEN STUDENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, ONE OF THE FOUNDERS AND OFFICERS OF THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL · WE HONOR TODAY YOUR LIVELY AND BENEFICENT INTEREST IN THE WORLD ABOUT YOU

IN WITNESS WHEREOF THIS DIPLOMA IS INSCRIBED WITH THE SIGNATURES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REGENTS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY, AND TO IT HAS BEEN AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL

GIVEN AT BERKELEY THIS ELEVENTH DAY OF JUNE IN THE YEAR
OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND SIXTY AND
OF THIS UNIVERSITY THE NINETY THIRD

Edmund G. Brown

[illegible]

HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY,
June 1960

Emma McLaughlin Dies; Dynamic S.F. Leader

EMMA McLAUGHLIN
Many crusades

Emma Moffat McLaughlin, for nearly 60 years a dynamic force in San Francisco, died late Wednesday at Children's Hospital, a few weeks short of her brithday.

Her death brought to a close the remarkable saga of a woman who viewed public service as an obligation; who gave unremittingly of her time to a host of causes and who was moved to anger only when she encountered bigotry, prejudice and ignorance.

The daughter of pioneers, Henry Moffat and Adrienna Swett Moffat, Mrs. McLaughlin was born here September 21, 1880, and after graduation from the now-defunct Miss West's School, went on to the University of California at a time when a coed was a rarity. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma and maintained her interest in the sorority long after her graduation in 1902.

SERVICE

Mrs. McLaughlin's lifetime of service to the University, to her city and her State received formal recognition precisely 60 years later when U.S. bestowed on her an honorary doctor of humanities degree.

And in 1962, Mills College (where Mrs. McLaughlin got a master's degree after she had passed the age of 60) awarded her an honorary doctor of laws degree.

Despite her serene beauty, Mrs. McLaughlin was always a militant crusader for community betterment and how, or where, she found time for her seemingly endless activities remains a mystery to this day.

ORGANIZATIONS

She was one of the founders and early directors of the Community Chest. She served as a member of the board of the State Department of Social Welfare. She was a member of the San Francisco Art Commission, president of the San Francisco Center of the League of Women Voters, a library commissioner and a trustee of the World Affairs Council. She was a director of the Institute of Pacific Relations, of Children's Hospital, the League of Planned Parenthood and of International House at the University of California.

She was a founding member of the Friends of the Public Library, and officer of the American Association of University Women, vice chairman of the Motion Picture Research Council, a member of the distributing committee of the San Francisco Foundation and a member of the YWCA program planning committee.

DEMAND

She was in constant demand as a speaker, both on domestic and international affairs, and there was no worthy enterprise that did not gain her immediate attention.

She belonged to the Century Club, the Women's City Club, the Metropolitan Club and the Women's Faculty Club in Berkeley.

Mrs. McLaughlin, whose husband Dr. Alfred McLaughlin died more than 60 years ago, lived at 3575 Clay street.

She is survived by her daughter, Mrs. Jefferson Doolittle, and three grandchildren, Jean Doolittle Henry, Alfred McLaughlin Doolittle and Jefferson Doolittle, Jr., and six great-grandchildren.

She also leaves four nieces, Mrs. Adrienne Alexander, Mrs. George A. Pope Mrs. Frank Fuller and Mrs. Wilson, a nephew, William Moffat, Jr.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church at 2325 Union street. Funeral arrangements are under direction of N. Gray & Co.

Memorial contributions to the Mrs. Alfred McLaughlin Scholarship Fund at the University of California in Berkeley are preferred by the family.

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Willa Klug Baum

Grew up in Middle West and Southern California.
B.A., Whittier College, in American history and philosophy; teaching assistant in American history and constitution.
Newspaper reporter.
M.A., Mills College, in American history and political science; teaching fellow in humanities.
Graduate work, University of California at Berkeley, 1949-1954, in American and California history; teaching assistant in American history and recent United States history.
Adult school teacher, Oakland, in English and Americanization, 1948-1967; author of teaching materials for English.
Summer session instructor in English for foreign students, Speech Department, University of California at Berkeley.
Interviewer and then head of Regional Oral History Office, 1954 to present, specializing in water and agricultural history.
Council member of national Oral History Association, 1967-1969.

Helene Maxwell Brewer

Autobiographical Resume

Helene Maxwell Brewer was born in San Francisco, California, in 1907, and educated in San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Palo Alto, and Baltimore. She took her A.B. at Santa Barbara State College; her M.A. at Stanford; her Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University. In graduate school her training was largely in 17th and 18th century poetry, and she wrote her dissertation on Charles Montagu, Lord Halifax an almost totally and deservedly unknown and very minor poet. Just before she completed her dissertation, Allan Nevins offered her a job as research assistant on his biography of John D. Rockefeller. The results of this year and a half were that she slowly shifted her interest from 17th century English poetry to 19th and 20th century American literature, gradually moving into the interrelationships of politics and literature.

In an effort to make herself well informed on the political currents of the early 20th century, she began to study the progressive movement, concentrating her efforts on a biography of Francis J. Heney, the California graft buster and progressive. In the course of her research she was awarded a Pacific Coast Committee (A.C.L.S.) Grant-in-Aid (1946) and a Guggenheim Fellowship, 1949. She read extensively in the relevant manuscripts collections at the Library of Congress, Yale, Harvard, and other Eastern libraries. During this period she began her interest in interviewing and in tape recording the recollections of the persons who talked with her about the progressive movement and the Progressive party of 1912. In 1951 she was chief research assistant to the late Marquis James, who was beginning his extensive researches in preparation for his proposed biography of Booker T. Washington; the huge collection of Washington Papers at the Library of Congress and interviewing were her chief duties. In 1952 she became a member of the English Department of Queens College of the City University of New York, where she is now an associate professor.

In 1960 she came out to the Bancroft Library for the summer and was so much delighted with what she found that with the exception of the time she spent in Japan, she has come out every year. From 1966-1968, Mrs. Brewer was in Japan on a Fulbright grant, serving as Visiting Lecturer to three universities in Tokyo.

Her articles are eclectic, not from intention but from the circumstances of her life; they stretch from John Dryden to Bernard Malamud, the former article having been written just after she received her Ph.D. while the latter is now in press in Japan. In 1958 she edited Amos Pinchot's History of the Progressive Party, 1912-1916. Her favorite diversion is making tapes or being allowed to help on ROHO projects.

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Women's Faculty Club
University of California
Berkeley, California